

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippi Baptists journey to Jerusalem

By Tim Nicholas
Staff Writer

First in a series

Not much has changed in the Holy Land since Jesus walked there. It's still hot and humid, mixed with sweet, unexpected breezes. Pungent spices mingle with the aroma of sweat from the human body.

It is a land of contrasts between beautiful gardens and desert sand, between haves and have-nots. In the strongest sense, a visitor can understand the utter lostness of the population — lost in hate, lost in hope, and lost in spirit.

The Israelis, mainly Jewish, and the Palestinians, mainly Muslim, both reject Christianity as a faith but on a personal level treat Christians with warmth and respect.

A group of 11 Mississippi Baptist sojourners spent two weeks, July 19-Aug. 3, working with Palestinians, estimated to be 70% unemployed.

A recent U.S. Agency for International Development study indicated more than one-fifth of Palestinian children under age five are malnourished.

The group came to work in "Project Future and Hope," taken from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

The project was envisioned by the Palestinian team of Southern Baptist representatives who work in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jordan.

Paul Lawrence, team leader for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board representatives, said that of the 99 names for God in the religion of Islam, "Love is not one of them. We want to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way."

He said that one of the project's goals is people's attitudes toward evangelicals and to show "that we are an honorable people and that our message has validity."

The project was designed to meet physical and emotional needs. Volunteers are leading in

"English Camps," and distributing food parcels provided by Southern Baptist Convention world hunger funds.

In addition, approximately 3,500 school uniforms are being given to Palestinian children. The uniforms are required for an otherwise free public education.

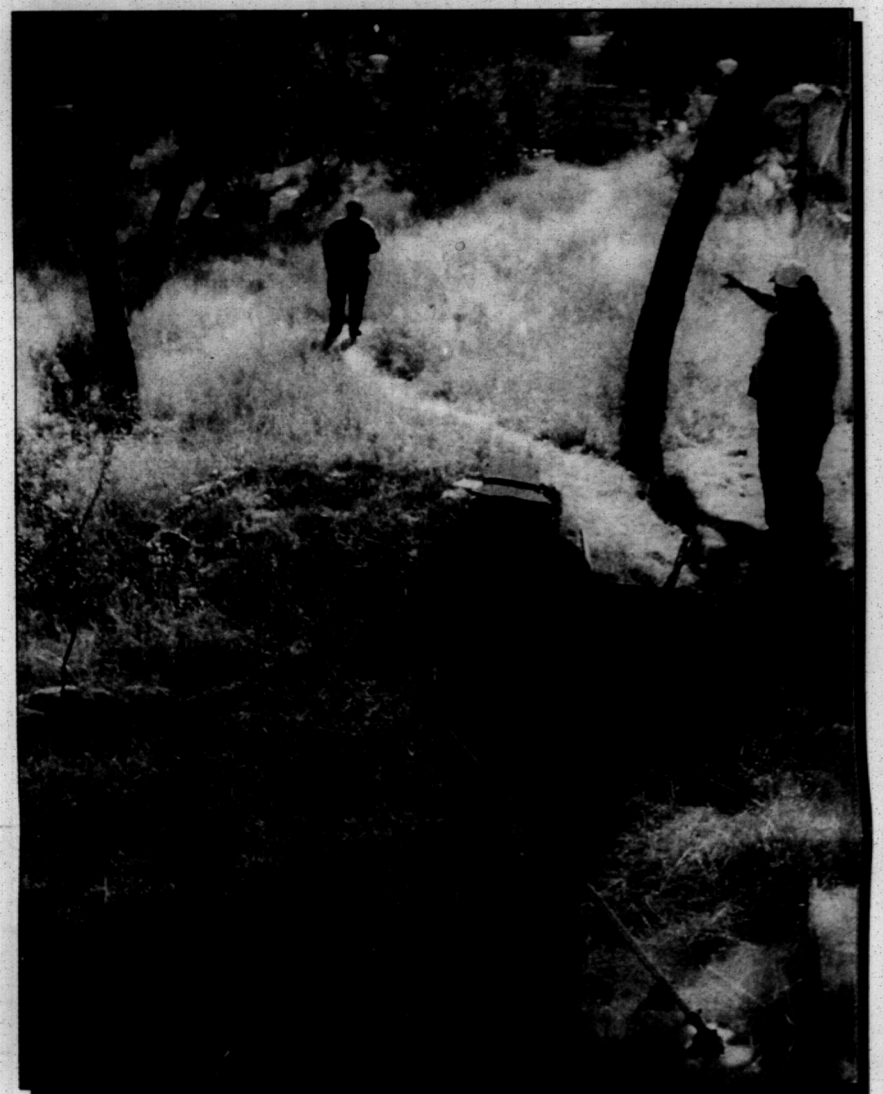
"The children have not had much joy in the past couple of years," said Lawrence.

A total of 20 teams from the U.S. were invited to participate in Project Future and Hope. Not all invitations were accepted. The Mississippi team consisted of veteran Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Disaster Relief Task Force members.

Jim Didlake, director of the MBCB Men's Ministry Department and team captain; Kay Cassibry, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director; Kathy Burns, WMU consultant; Don Gann, pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry; and Jerry Bishop, pastor of First Church, Lauderdale, made up the English Camp leaders among the Mississippi group.

Steve Griffin, pastor of McCordy Church in Chickasaw County and team captain; William Wright, pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson; Bill McCreary, missions director for Benton and Tippah Associations; Paul Cassibry of Clinton, retired military chaplain and pastor; Barri Shirley, associate executive director of the MBCB's resource services division; and this writer made up the second part of the state team.

Griffin's group was assigned to help paint the outside of East Jerusalem Baptist Church; paint railings at the Baptist



AT WORK IN JERUSALEM — William Wright (foreground), pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, operates a weed trimmer in a lot in Jerusalem that Mississippi Baptists cleared to become a prayer garden. (BR Photo by Tim Nicholas)

compound in Gaza; help distribute food and make home visits; and clean up the yard of Jerusalem House in Jerusalem.

Baptists plan to make the house into an international house of prayer and for the study of prayer. The yard is to become a prayer garden.

The team cut and cleared nine trees and cut down months of weeds and brush in the three-quarter acre plot. The back gate of the yard opens into the Jewish side of Jerusalem. The front door of the house opens into the Palestinian side of town.

"I was amazed at God having the right tools in the right place for the work team," said Wright.

After a long day of yard work, the group spent an hour of prayer walking in the old city of Jerusalem, then returned to baptize the prayer garden with prayer.

Encircled hand-to-hand, standing in the light of the full moon, and inhaling the scent of new-mown hay, the group sang, "We are Standing on Holy Ground." Emotions that night were electric.

"Probably my most lasting impression was praying in that garden the first time, knowing it will serve that purpose for a long time," Wright said.



WORKING TOGETHER — Emanuel Khemi (right) of Sweden, a volunteer with Youth with a Mission, teaches a cooperation game during English camp at a Christian library in Gaza City begun by missionaries more than 30 years ago. (BR Photo by Tim Nicholas)



'PRAISE GOD' — Mississippi Baptists visited this unidentified Palestinian in the West Bank who had just had a foot operation. The man allowed the visitors to pray for peace. As the Mississippians left, he said, "Praise God, Hallelujah." (BR photo by Tim Nicholas)

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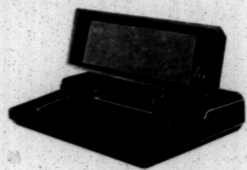
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Another 'rights' revolution

They are coming for your children. While that may sound like the slogan for an old B-grade horror movie, it's true. The sexual pervers are coming for your children and, believe it or not, they say they have a perfect right to introduce your children to sex.

"BoyLove is a worldwide phenomenon that does not recognize the boundaries of gender, race, nationality, age, religious beliefs, or philosophy. BoyLove describes a special kind of relationship between human males," states The BoyLove Manifesto by the group of the same name.

Did you catch that? Couched in the general language of civil rights — "gender, race, nationality, age, religious beliefs, or philosophy" — pedophiles are coming out of the closet to claim their newfound right to engage in "a special relationship between human males."

The BoyLove Manifesto goes on to blame parents and society at large for unfair attitudes toward sex between men and boys, and closes with a list of demands:

- "We demand freedom of individual sexuality for boys and boylovers.

- We demand that current standards of sexuality be reconsidered.

These standards infringe upon human rights, because they prohibit children and those who love them from even thinking about engaging in any sexual intimacy.

- We demand that any medical, psychological, or religious notions which are pre-conceived against child sexuality, be exempted from a discussion about new sexual standards."

- We demand freedom of speech in the media..."

In other words, they want it all, including your boy children. It goes without saying that there are plenty of pervers out there who covet our girl children, too.

"Children are the last bastion of the old sexual morality," reports Harris Mirkin, associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, in a recent Baptist Press article.

The July 1998 issue of the Psychological Bulletin of the American Psychological Association (APA) contained an article that downplayed the negative effects of adult-child sex and called on the association's members to stop referring to the practice as abuse. (The APA has since backed down from the article's premise.)

The American Civil Liberties Union has even come to the defense of the North American Man Boy Love Association, offering to defend its members free of charge and guaranteeing their anonymity if they choose to seek their "rights" through the courts.

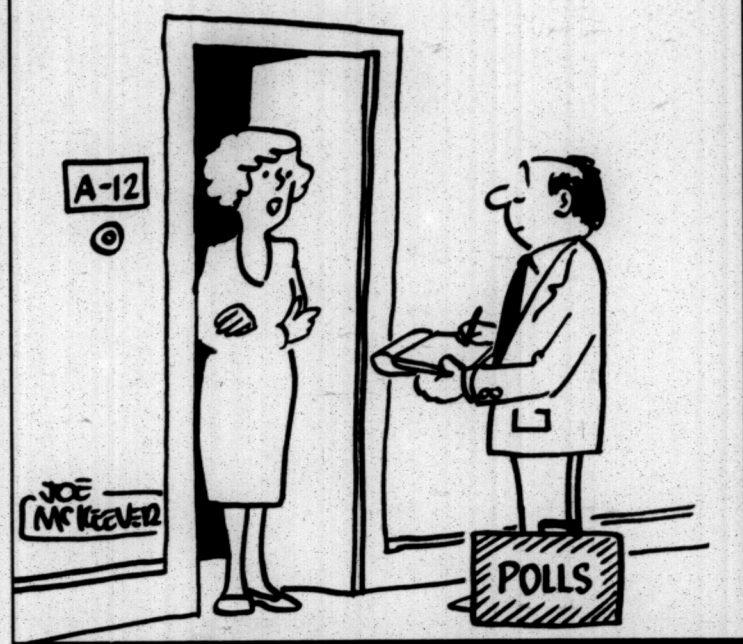
The latest outrage is a book by journalist Judith Levine

entitled, *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children From Sex*. In the book she states, "Sexual contact with a child does not a pedophile make."

There's plenty of disagreement on the subject, however. "What pedophiles are looking for is some group of professionals to champion their cause. Then they'll come up with a derogatory term to deride anyone who disagrees with them. Their claim will be objective science, even though their science is sloppy and terrible," Stephanie Dallam, a researcher for the Leadership Council for Mental Health, Justice, and the Media, recently told Baptist Press.

Sound familiar? For years now, we have been bombarded with "scientific" studies on the benefits of homosexuality — and if we

"ACTUALLY I'M NOT RELIGIOUS AT ALL. BUT I AM INTO SPIRITUALITY!"



are opposed to the homosexual agenda, we are "hatemongers" and "homophobes" bent on denying an innocent group their rights.

As the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper puts it, "With more research, some scholars say, it may be only a matter of time before modern society accepts adult-child sex, just as it has learned to accept premarital sex and homosexual sex."

God forbid such a day, when his little ones are seen as nothing more than empty appliances for adults' sexual pleasure. As the old axiom states, "If God doesn't punish modern America, he'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah."

May we wake up to the truth before we end up like those cities of the plain.

GUEST OPINION:



*So you're looking
for a pastor?*

*By Jerry W. Mixon, director
MBCB Stewardship Department*

My journey as a minister began in 1959, so I have dealt with pastor search committees for 43 years. Some I turned down and some turned me down. Since I have retired from the pastorate, I thought it would be helpful to share some of my thoughts.

It is a given that search committees should always begin with prayer. They should pray and pray and then pray a little more. They should be frank in telling the prospect the whole truth and nothing but the truth about the church. He does not need to be blind-sided when he arrives and finds problems he did not know existed. He deserves the facts. He should be given a job description and know up front what is expected of him. Vacation, revivals, office hours, and time off should all be in writing.

The search committee should never make promises that have not been approved by the church — promises like, "The church will help you raise money for a down payment on a house," "Sure, we will add a new room to the pastor's home," or "You can't do all the revivals you want." Many pastors go to a church with promises made by the search committee and suffer because the church had not approved such promises.

The matter of salary should be presented to the prospect by the search committee. Salary and benefits need to be discussed openly and frankly. Salary should never be figured based on what the prospect's mate may earn in her employment. Can you imagine some business adjusting the salary of a prospect based on the earnings of his wife?

Search committees should reimburse prospects for travel and related expenses when coming to look over a church field or when meeting with the search committee in locations where travel is involved.

Verifying resume information is critical. Don't just check the references on the resume. You would never list someone as a reference who would give you a negative recommenda-

tion, and neither will he. You must check out all references, but also research two or three other churches he served.

Disqualifying a man because of his age may prevent some churches from finding the right man.

The church should assume the expense of relocation. If the church is a smaller congregation, then put aside some extra money for this expense during the interim period.

When the search committee passes on a prospect, write or call him and give him the freedom to move on. Don't assume he knows you have moved on.

In conclusion, search committees should look for a pastor who loves people and one who wants to serve and not be served. Look for a man who preaches hell, heaven, and the

cross as the only way to be saved. That kind of preaching may not be politically correct, but it is biblically correct. Look for a man who still believes in Satan and believes the Bible is the Word of God.

Look for a man who has a personal prayer life. Ask what books he has read recently. Look for a man who still believes he is a sinner saved by grace and depends on the power of God daily to deliver him from the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Take a good look at how he treats his wife, his children, and his pets. That will be a good indicator of how he will treat his church family.

Contact Frank Harmon director of the Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He will give you additional tried-and-proven information and a list of prospects.

Harmon can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone; (601) 292-3225 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 225. E-mail: fharmon@mbcb.org.

Mixon can be reached at the address above. His telephone number is (601) 292-3348 and his e-mail address is jmixon@mbcb.org.

Christians build base in frigid China city

HARBIN, China (BP) — By early afternoon, the snowfall tapers to lazy flakes. On the Songhua River — frozen solid for nearly five months out of the year — children spin and skate on the ice in an almost carnival-like delirium, blissfully ignoring the biting cold that comes in the deepest days of north China's long winter.

Pedestrians, puffy figures with hands crammed deep into layers of clothing and faces barely visible behind carefully draped woolen wraps, crunch fresh prints along icy sidewalks. Muffled sounds of winter are muted further by the lack of words. Speaking hurts.

In Harbin (HARBIN), the capital city of China's northernmost province, snow begins falling in early November. For the better part of seven months, winter settles in like an annoying guest who has overstayed his welcome.

By the time the sun takes its early exit, around 4 p.m., it is minus 10 degrees and dropping. Despite the cold, Harbin begins to come alive.

During the heart of winter, Harbin opens her doors to the world through the annual Harbin Snow and Ice Festival. Over the course of several weeks beginning in December, craftsmen cut enormous chunks of ice from the river.

By January, Harbin's city streets, parks and even sidewalks are filled with huge multistoried ice castles, sculpted animals, replicas of statues and famous buildings, fortresses, and obscure pieces of art.

The art is made from snow or carved ice and brightly lit with multicolored neon bulbs. It's as if the festival attempts to dispel the notion that subzero temperatures are intolerable.



WINTER WORSHIP — In a rural registered church on the outskirts of Harbin, China, a crude stove does little to cut the cold during worship services. Leaders of Harbin's registered churches openly express concern about the future of established churches, often void of youth and young professionals. (BP photo)

The Russians built Harbin, then just a meager fishing village, into a booming Russian city complete with a majestic Russian Orthodox cathedral.

When the Russian revolution in 1917 brought Bolshevik communists to power, Harbin became home to thousands of White Russian refugees fleeing persecution. For several decades, Harbin prosperously grew into the largest foreign city in East Asia, but was promptly abandoned once the Chinese Communist Party took power.

"The growth of the church in Harbin has been rated among the highest in China," says a Christian foreigner who hopes to see a church-planting movement start in Harbin. However, she notes, there is an enormous gap between those who attend churches and the people who need to be reached with the Gospel.

"The churches — both the registered churches and the house churches — are working within the confines of what has been established for so long," she says. "They're working in an old paradigm."

She suggests this is perhaps due to examples established decades ago by early Protestant influences.

"It's old," she says plainly. "It's going to take new growth. Sometimes it's easier to give birth than to raise the dead, and changing a whole paradigm that has been set from the late 1800s is very difficult. It needs to be a new thing."

Every time the doors open in the registered church in Harbin's Nan Gang district, more than 300 people fill the sanctuary. Another 300 squeeze into the tight balcony. No one takes off his or her coat; the sanctuary does nothing to cut the cold.

Behind the main sanctuary, people pack two more rooms of equal size and a dining hall. They participate in the service through TV monitors showing a middle-aged woman preaching from the pulpit.

The average age of the 2,000-or-so worshippers appears to be about 60. A handful appear to be under 40. Even fewer are men.

A young Chinese doctoral student who, like many Chinese, uses a Western name,

says churches are not attractive to people his age. "The younger people come into the churches because they might be curious about God," he says, "but all they see are old people, and they don't go back again."

A Chinese pastor of a registered church agrees with Robert. The biggest challenge for churches in Harbin is to become relevant to the young people of the city, he says.

"Sometimes young people are led or invited to church, but what do they see? Old people. Old pastors. Even the message is not relevant to them," admits Phillip, himself still in his early 30s. "There needs to be some training in how to reach young people, because the kids don't come back."

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Notify parents, group says

WASHINGTON (BP) — A pro-family group is calling on Congress to require that public schools that sponsor Big Brother Big Sister programs notify parents if a proposed mentor is homosexual. CNSNews.com reported Aug. 13. On July 1, the Big Brother Big Sister organization implemented a policy that bans discrimination against open homosexuals who want to serve as volunteers and mentors to children at 500 affiliates nationwide. Eugene Delgaudio, executive director of Public Advocate of the U.S., warned in a letter to Congress that under the new policy parents will not be told of the adult's sexual preference, a policy he says puts children at risk. "Action must be taken to protect these Little Brothers and Little Sisters," Delgaudio wrote. The new policy of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) forbids the exclusion of any mentor on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability. Delgaudio noted, because the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program serves "essentially as an agent" to the nation's public schools the organization should adhere to a different hiring policy. "No agency of a government-sponsored public school should knowingly hand over minor children under eighteen to adult homosexuals as a matter of policy," Delgaudio wrote. "It is a tragedy that a group that has provided worthy programs for children is recklessly abandoning the well being of children to satisfy the radical homosexual lobby," he added. "It is time that we protect the rights of Little Brothers and Little Sisters like we have protected the rights of Boy Scouts," Delgaudio concluded.

Looking back

10 years ago

Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, tells board members that the property of financially-troubled Clarke College in Newton is now in the hands of Mississippi College (MC), to "preserve as far as possible the spiritual and physical assets of Clarke College."

20 years ago

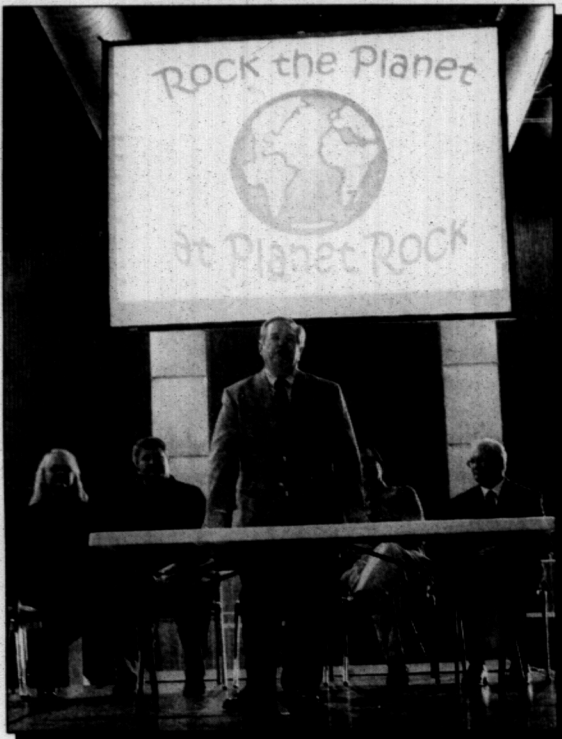
Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, announces that this year's Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering goal is \$375,000. "Several mission causes are totally dependent on this offering," Kelly points out.

50 years ago

Crosby Church, Mississippi Association, holds its first homecoming in the history of the church, with three services on that day and dinner served on the grounds. A new Sunday School record attendance of 201 people is counted. Landrum Leavell is pastor.

Rankin church prepares to 'Rock the Planet'

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor



READY TO ROCK — Allen Stephens (standing), missions director for Rankin Association, gives an overview of the strategy that birthed Rock the Planet Church in Pearl. (Photo by Tony Martin)

A new church is being birthed in Rankin County, and it's not like anything else around. When a poster describing the church's dress code shows a pair of blue jeans, you know worship is not going to be business as usual.

To say that Rock the Planet Church in Pearl is contemporary and innovative would be a grand understatement. For starters, the church meets for worship at Planet Rock, a huge facility right off Interstate 20. Planet Rock is a kid's dream, with a skating rink, arcade games, mid-way-style games, food services, and a host of other activities to thrill and excite — not to mention 24 hour child care.

Now, on Sundays, it's also a house of praise and worship. The church hosted its first services August 18.

"We are trying to reach people in the community who have not yet been reached. As an association, we brought Guy Hughes on board to develop strategies to reach families in multifamily housing, and the church has grown out of that desire," said Allen Stephens, missions director for Rankin Association in Brandon.

"This church actually grew out of a street hockey ministry we began two years ago. Judy Hall, the owner of Planet Rock, read about what we were doing with the street hockey ministry and how kids were being reached, and she offered the rink here. Through that relationship she has offered to make Planet Rock available for our worship services," said Hughes, who will be serving as pastor of the new church.

Hughes said that Planet Rock owner Judy Hall had been reading the popular book, *Prayer of Jabez*, so when he approached her in November 2001, about

the possibility of beginning a church at Planet Rock, she was willing and excited.

"Our target group is individuals age 44 and under," said Hughes. "Our research shows that 69% of the population of Pearl falls in that age range. We did research to find what kind of music this age group listens to, what TV programs they watch, and we've done a lot of our advertising based on our findings."

For instance, Hughes learned that Y101 was a favorite radio station, and that WB40 was a popular television station, so the fledgling church has advertised heavily through both those outlets.

"We're going after unchurched people," Hughes continued. "We've been trying to listen to them. We want to be somewhat seeker sensitive in our approach, but we're not going to compromise the Gospel."

As in most new church plants, several people and groups have contributed to the start of the new work. McLaurin Church in Pearl agreed to be the sponsoring church, and other

churches in Rankin Association as well as the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) have played crucial parts in the church's birth.

"We've begun a new strategy in beginning new churches. We've instituted a covenant signing that brings together all the parties involved in a church plant. It gives an extra level of commitment to the work being started," said Ed Deuschle, MBCB church planting director.

Deuschle, Stephens, Hughes, Hall, and Steve Jackson, pastor of McLaurin Heights, signed the covenant August 13 to support the church.

The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering provided \$5,000 for the church start, with a commitment for the next three years to provide more funds on a year-by-year basis.

Hughes watched as volunteers hung banners and prepared the skating area for the first church services. "We may be changing the methods, but we're not changing the message," he said.

Bibliocipher creator recovering from surgery

By Brian Blackwell
Louisiana Baptist Message

When doctors diagnosed Charles Marx of Hattiesburg with life-threatening brain cancer, one of his biggest worries was that he would not be able to produce any more Bibliociphers.

Created by Marx, Bibliociphers appear weekly in state Baptist newspapers and are puzzles in which one letter has been substituted for another, encoding a Bible verse.

"They meant a lot to him," says brother Harold Marx, who spoke on behalf of Charles. "After he had his surgery and got better, he talked about writing some more."

An active member of Temple Church in Hattiesburg, Charles Marx was on a missions trip to Honduras earlier this year when he became disoriented and could not recall his name. He was flown back to Hattiesburg, where doctors diagnosed him with brain cancer.

Charles Marx received the doctor's news on the date of his 50th wedding anniversary. He and his wife, Ernestine, have three children and four grandchildren.

"We're fortunate, even though this is a tragic thing, because God's been good to us," Harold Marx says. "A lot of folks are praying for him. When he hears that, he says he appreciates it but wants them all to thank the Lord for all he's done."

Norman Bailey serves on the missions committee at Temple Church. He says of Charles Marx: "Missions is a passion of his. He really has a heart for it. He was always anxious to participate by going as a team member or leading a team on a trip."

Charles Marx has participated in at least two mission trips each year, including trips to Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica and Russia.

Harold Marx says he believes one reason his brother has such a heart for missions is because of his childhood.

"We grew up poor and had a hard time," Harold Marx recalls. "He felt sorry for the people in that position and wanted to tell them about Christ. When he got over there,



Marx

he saw they had nothing and felt that was a place where he could do some good."

Born in McComb, Charles Marx's parents divorced when he was five years old. He left his home to live with his aunt in Beaumont "for a while," his brother said. He worked a variety of odd jobs, such as folding and delivering newspapers, until he left to join the United States Air Force at age 15, so he could send his mother a check each month.

After serving his country, Charles Marx enrolled in college, earning two master's degrees, a doctorate, and a law degree from Mississippi universities.

Even though he experienced hard times, Harold Marx says he never heard his brother complain about the situations.

"He always looked after me and helped me," Harold Marx adds. "He's been grown all of his life. If I could be more like anybody I know, I'd be like him."

After completing his education, Charles Marx served as executive assistant to the Mississippi attorney general before his appointment as the state tax commissioner, an office he held for seven-and-a-half years. He was chief of staff for Mississippi Governor Bill Allain for one year.

Other jobs he held were legal counsel for Mississippi's highway patrol for 20 years and many years as a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, where he earned one of his master's degrees.

Until he was diagnosed with brain cancer, Charles Marx taught Sunday School and was active in the Joy Club senior adult group at Temple Church.

Ken Hopkins, minister of senior adults at Temple Church, says Charles Marx is a man of high morals and ethics, with a warm personality.

"He always had jokes to tell you and loved to get stories off the Internet," Hopkins says. "It will be a tremendous loss when he passes on. When you take out his personality and everything he did at the church, it will be a big loss."

An important loss to many readers of state Baptist newspapers will be the Bibliociphers. Carlton Winbery is chair of the department of religious studies at Louisiana College in Pineville. He says: "I enjoy most kinds of word puzzles and find the Bibliocipher to be fun. I especially like to develop methods of attack to breaking the code."

Though Harold Marx has never heard his brother say he considers the Bibliociphers a calling from God, he does know that "at one time, he told me it was something he could do that the Lord gave him to do. He felt like the Bibliociphers would get people who like crossword puzzles to work the puzzles and read the Bible more."

For now, Charles Marx is fighting the good fight, running the race, and keeping the faith.

"When he finished the surgery, Charlie told me that the Lord has a purpose for him, but he doesn't know what it is," Harold Marx says. "I said it could be setting a good example for others to follow."

Blackwell is a 2002 graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. The *Baptist Message* is the newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

1st Church, Picayune, to host Dean

First Church, Picayune, will host Christian author and speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean in a special conference and Sunday School class at the church on August 23-25.

The conference will begin with registration at 6:30 p.m. on August 23, followed by a 7 p.m. conference session. The conference will resume with registration at 8:45 a.m. on August 24. Conference sessions on August 24 will begin at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. (Lunch is on your own.) The conference concludes at 3 p.m.

Dean will lead a church-wide joint Sunday School class beginning at 9:45 a.m. on August 25.

There is no fee for attending the conference. For more information, contact Faye Pind at (601) 749-2631.

NAMB to reorganize FamilyNet network

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees voted unanimously Aug. 13 to convert the FamilyNet television network from a nonprofit to a for-profit subsidiary in an effort to allow the network to reach a greater level of national impact.

The reorganization plan was adopted during a called meeting of trustees, many of whom participated by teleconference. The plan will next be submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for approval.

The new for-profit FamilyNet would be formed from three existing NAMB subsidiaries: FamilyNet, a nonprofit entity; TimeRite Agency, a for-profit advertis-

ing subsidiary; and DFW Uplink, a nonprofit subsidiary that includes satellite transmission operations.

NAMB President Bob Reccord told trustees the decision to take make FamilyNet a for-profit entity stems from the limited funding potential available to the network as a nonprofit entity.

Reccord said that while FamilyNet and its predecessors have been successful as a ministry venture, they have not succeeded in reaching the vast majority of Americans because of the lack of capital.

"In order to be significant contributors in the area of media in America, Southern Baptists — while having all the desire and the intent — have not

been able to do what a national television network ought to do," Reccord told trustees.

Viability in the television industry, Reccord said, hinges on distribution. A potential audience of 30 million homes, he said, is generally considered the break-even point for a national network, but while FamilyNet has made significant gains over the past five years it currently has an around-the-clock presence in only 2.9 million households.

Most of its 165 affiliates are low-power stations, resulting in spotty coverage not accessible by the majority of the nation.

David Clark, a former vice president for the Christian Broadcasting Network, has

been hired to serve as vice president for NAMB's broadcast communications group and president of FamilyNet.

NAMB leaders believe the new for-profit entity could draw potential investors that could help the agency bolster programming, distribution, and marketing efforts to the point that the audience of 30 million people would be within reach.

Trustees were given a five-page list of guidelines that would govern the relationship with potential investors that gives NAMB strong controls over content and direction. They responded with affirmation to the plan, each voting in favor during a roll-call vote with no abstentions.

STOP THE POLLUTION

They caught the guy who was polluting the Mississippi Gulf Coast! For some time they had been taking samples of the Gulf waters and the results were showing an unusually high bacterial rate. The authorities did not know why. As they kept working on the problem, they finally traced it back to one of the drainage culverts that goes out into the Gulf. It seems a hotel operator had hooked up a pipe from the hotel to dispense of raw sewage. The man responsible has been charged. If found guilty, he will be facing possible jail time and fines.

I cannot imagine why he did it — maybe to save taxes or some processing fee. Regardless of the motive, I'm glad they caught him, stopped him, fixed the problem, and stopped the pollution. According to the authorities, the ebb and flow of the Gulf waters have already dispersed and dissipated the pollutants and the waters are back to normal.

I only wish that dealing with other forms of pollution could be corrected that easily, but unfortunately they can't. While we are making attempts to do something about some types of pollution, we seem to simply be learning to live with other types, for instance:

• **"Smoke" Pollution.** I was at a meeting not long ago where there were approximately 30-35 people in attendance and we were in a room that was not designated as a smoke-free environment. One person, that's all, just one person decided he wanted to smoke a cigarette and we all ended up smoking! No, we didn't light up a cigarette, but we all had to participate in his habit because the whole room was filled with pollution.

I remember a similar event some years ago that took place at a funeral home. At the time, the ministers and the pallbear-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ers were in a small room waiting for the service to begin and one of the pallbearers lit up a cigarette and started smoking. After two or three minutes, the other minister who was with me walked over to the man smoking the cigarette and asked, "Would you like to chew my gum?" The guy looked at him kind of funny and somewhat offended said, "Well, no, I really don't care anything about chewing your gum. Why?" The minister said, "Oh, I just thought you might like to chew my gum since I've been standing here smoking your cigarette." In a not-too-subtle way, he got his point across!

It is a demonstrable fact that if you want to do one single thing that will improve your health and probably extend your life, that one thing would be to not smoke. If you don't smoke — don't start! If you do smoke — stop! On behalf of the millions of people who have lung conditions that are sensitive to smoke as it impairs their ability to breathe, and on behalf of millions of young people that are trying to grow up and develop healthy lungs — thank you for helping clean up this pollution.

• **"Gossip" Pollution.** This pollution, best known as "old-fashioned gossip," has spread throughout the land and around the world. It may be old-fashioned, but it has a new high tech means of travel — E-mail. I am convinced that gossip has never been so elevated and enthroned as it is today with the use of instant electronic mail. In years gone by a person would hear something

and would distance themselves from it by indicating that they were told this information by someone else; yet, they still passed it along and by virtue of the very process, gave it some credibility. Today a person can sit at their computer and receive information that may or may not have any ounce of truth, and they can in turn hit one button and send it out to hundreds of their precious friends who then can do likewise. Within minutes, it is not only possible but probable, that misinformation circles the globe.

There are two features that make E-mail even more deadly. One, it is possible to be anonymous. You can hide behind the shield of anonymity and throw out pollution about someone, something, an institution, or an individual, and people grab it and go. The second destructive feature of E-mail is that it provides such convenience, distance, and deniability. It's easy for anyone to say, "Well, I didn't write that or say that. I was just passing it on to you. It came to me from somebody in ..." It makes us feel as though we haven't really participated in the "gossip pollution," but the truth is we have. Gossip was, is, and continues to be deadly and sinful.

As you pass along information, whether from one person to another, or one computer to another, three questions ought to be raised before you act.

- Is the information untrue?
- Is the information presented unsure?
- Is the information unnecessary?

You can speak the truth and

still be wrong. You do not have to tell everything you know. In fact, Christian discussion and integrity demands otherwise. I'm sure that I cannot change all of the spread of gossip over the Internet or otherwise, but by God's help, I can do something about it in my own life. So can you. Cleaning up a little bit of pollution is better than adding to the problem.

• **"Entertainment Industry" Pollution.** This particular type of pollution is also being spread all across the country. The language and the lifestyle that is presented in film, videos, music, and radio used to be shocking, but now, sadly, it barely raises an eyebrow. Whether it is coming out of Hollywood or New York, MTV or WWF, we are being conditioned day after day to accept the abnormal as commonplace, as though that is the way the world really is. It just becomes the normal verbal and visual atmosphere around us.

I heard a man speaking in a church recently and he was using certain language in order to make a point — language which, if I had even thought much less said as a youngster, I would have been in a heap of trouble with both my mom and my dad! Way back in those days, when the dinosaurs roamed the earth, I'd have gotten a whuppin! Today, few people even react. I am certainly aware that much of what is done on stage or in the theatre today is using artistic license in an effort to present life in a different way. Still, filth remains filth, trash remains trash, and pollution can make you sick!

It took a while to catch the guy doing all the polluting on the Coast, and while we may not be able to stop all the other types of pollution in our society, we can all do our best to do what we can to avoid the spread of contaminants.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Coy Rice, music minister of Parkway Church, Pascagoula, was ordained to the ministry on July 28. Pictured (from left) are Murphy Young, pastor; Rice; and Johnny Nations Sr.



Young, Rice, and Nations

Byram Church, Jackson, ordained Michael McAlpin, Danny Dear, and Joe Biggers as deacons on June 16. Pictured (from left) are McAlpin, Dear, Biggers, and Roy Maine, pastor.



McAlpin, Dear, Biggers, and Maine

Cross Roads, Pelahatchie, recently licensed **Shannon**

Shivers to the ministry. He has been called to be the minister of recreation at the Rock the Planet Church in Pearl. **Shivers**, left, is pictured receiving his license from **B. E. Hill**, pastor of Cross Roads.



Bowers, Young, and Foster

Harmony Church, Lincoln Association, ordained David Bowers and Anthony Foster as deacons on July 28. Pictured (from left) are Bowers; Clarence Young, pastor; and Foster.



Young and Johnson

Harmony Church, Lincoln Association, named Naltie Johnson as honorary deacon emeritus on July 28. Johnson has served as a deacon for over five decades. Pictured (from left) are Clarence Young, interim pastor; and Johnson.

Jenny Harrington has been awarded \$6,000 scholarship from the Lawrence and Louise Palmer Scholarship Fund of First Church, Amory. Daughter of Jim and June Harrington, she will be attending Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, to prepare for the mission field. She has previously served as a missionary in South America. Dick Palmer established the scholarship fund at First Church, Amory.



Shivers and Hill



BAPTISTS BAPTISTS BAPTISTS

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please e-mail resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for the person God has selected to serve as minister of education and music. Salary and benefits determined by education and experience level. Please send resume to: Search Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, 508 New Hope Church Road, Foxworth, MS 39483.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for a Part-time Youth Minister. Please send resume to: Search Committee, New Hope Baptist Church, 508 New Hope Church Road, Foxworth, MS 39483.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resumes c/o Music Search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

RETIRED PASTOR AND WIFE DESIRE to help pastorless churches in North Mississippi. Seven years training and 40 years experience. Wife plays piano and teaches. For more information contact A & D, 1213 Winwood Cove,

Tupelo, MS 38801, (662) 620-7868.

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, Aberdeen, Miss. is seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties to include music direction during regular worship services, mid-week rehearsals and special music presentations during the year. Send resumes to the Music Committee, P.O. Box H, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232, Attn: Personnel Department.

STEEP HOLLOW BAPTIST CHURCH, Mid-sized church seeking part-time (potential full-time) Minister of Music, Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss., 2 Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Must lead Adult Choir. Please call (601) 795-4638 or Fax Resume (601) 795-4696.

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 County Road 600, Walnut, Miss. 38683 is seeking a full-time pastor. Church is located 10 miles east of Walnut, Miss. and 20 miles west of Corinth, MS. Send resume to the above address, ATTENTION: Pastor Search Committee.

PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH Pearl/Brandon, is seeking a pianist who is comfortable with blended services, multiple services. Call (601) 939-6282.

REVIVAL DATES

Emmanuel, Walnut Grove: Aug. 25-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Fri, 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Forest, evangelist; Sherry Seese, music; Paul Jordan, pastor.

and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Wednesday, youth night; Bruce Gill, evangelist; Jeff Jones, worship leader; for additional information, call the church office at (601) 854-5306. Randall Jackson, pastor.

Maybank, Hattiesburg: Sept. 1-6; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, Conehatta, evangelist; L. O. Warren, Hattiesburg, music; Bob Robinson, pastor.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville: Sept. 1-4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship services, 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.; shrimp boil after the evening service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; speakers will be James Messer on Sunday; Ron Harrison, Monday through Wednesday; Carl Myers, Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.; Tommy Mitchell, Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.; lunch provided for 11:30 a.m. services; Billy Joe Kennedy, music; Shannon Marshall, pastor.

"Oh that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence... your coming would make the nations tremble."

Isaiah 64: 1,2



It can be said that a few passionate people can change the world. If you think about it, they are the only ones who ever have. Is it your cry and desire to be one of those few? Are you serious about selling out to Christ to the point that your whole being will be consumed by your love for Him? Are you willing to be totally abandoned to God?

The passion cry of the prophet Isaiah was that God would come down and move in mighty power as a testimony to the world, like when He descended on Mount Sinai to reveal the Ten Commandments. The whole mountain shook like a "violent earthquake" and the people trembled in fear.

For more information on See You at the Pole call 1-817-HIS-PLAN or visit the web at www.syatp.com

• See You at the Pole •
September 18, 2002

Mission dir. Stanfill dies on July 19

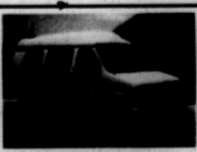
Don Stanfill, 67, mission director for Lafayette and Marshall associations, died July 19 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford. Stanfill was a former pastor for 30 years and a member of North Oxford Church.

Funeral services were held at the North Oxford Church with burial at the North Oxford Cemetery. Stanfill did undergraduate work at Mississippi College and received a doctor of ministry degree from Carolina University of Theology in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Survivors include his wife Doris Stanfill of Oxford; daughters, Tera Martin of New Albany and Lucy Hasselman of Southaven; son Don Alan Stanfill of Germantown, Tenn.; sister, Aline Jones of Germantown, Tenn.; and five grandchildren.

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step.

Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!
www.tri-statevanbus.com



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 22, 2002

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

January Bible Study Preview Clinics 2002

**"Helping Your Church
Stay on Course: Studies in
I Corinthians"**

Conference Leader:
Gene Henderson
Pastor, FBC, Brandon



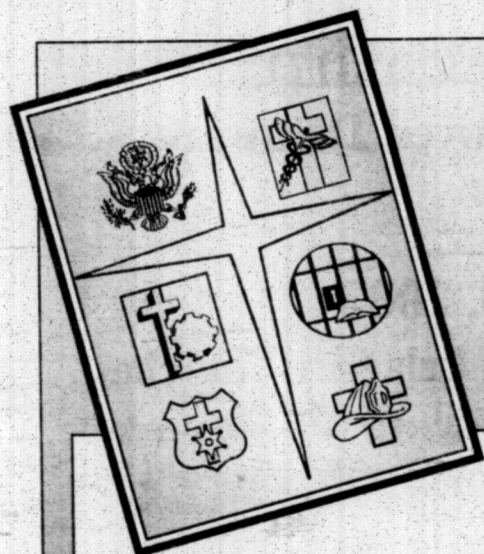
Locations:

September 23	Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
September 24	Delta State BSU, Cleveland
September 25	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Jackson
September 26	William Carey College, Hattiesburg

Conference Times (all locations):

9-9:30 a.m.	Registration/Refreshments
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	Conference - Complimentary lunch will be provided

*Sponsored by: Sunday School Dept., Mississippi
Baptist Convention Board
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651*



VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IN... Burn-Out Ministry, End of Life Issues, Pastoral Care of Children

September 20, 2002 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Building
515 Mississippi Street, Jackson

TRAINING SESSIONS AND LEADERS

Opening session for all participants

"Understanding Family Dynamics" led by Reid Whittington

A look at different ways family members relate to each other and operate as a unit.
Understanding how families are structured affects our ministry to them.

• BURN-OUT IN MINISTRY

Barry Click

Signs and symptoms of stress: How to
recognize stress and cope creatively.
Lifestyle - Exercise - Attitude -
Relationships - Nutrition.

• END OF LIFE ISSUES

Marty Harper and Don Nerren

A look at issues faced at the end of life,
including cultural differences and
ethical concerns.

• PASTORAL CARE OF CHILDREN

Linda McComb

Focus on assessing and attending to the
specific and unique spiritual needs of
children who are experiencing their
own illness, a loved one's serious ill-
ness, grief or trauma.

Participant will select one of the focus areas and attend a total of three hours
training in that area. This training is open to all ministers and laypersons
who wish to improve their ministry skills in one of these areas.

REGISTRATION FORM: VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS TRAINING

September 20, 2002

Registration fee of \$5 per person enclosed (includes lunch and materials)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

I will attend the following session:
(circle one)
Burn-Out in Ministry
End of Life Issues
Pastoral Care of Children

Please register by September 13, 2002

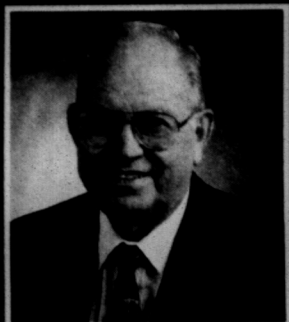
Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Elaine Smith, Chaplaincy, P.O. Box 330, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

For more information, call Elaine Smith, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361 or

E-mail Elaine at esmith@mbcb.org

Sponsored by

Church Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and
Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association



2003 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY PREVIEWS

Doctrine of Prayer

with

Dr. T.W. Hunt

Make your plans now!

Preregistration is requested. All previews are from 9 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$10, which includes registration for the preview, brunch and a copy of the study course book.

PREREGISTRATION FORM Doctrine of Prayer Preview

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Church _____

Association _____

Address _____

\$10 x no. of persons = \$ _____ (total amount)

Please include names of others in your group on a separate sheet.

Circle choice of preview location

- First Baptist Church, McComb, January 20, 2003
- First Baptist Church, Richland, January 21, 2003
- First Baptist Church, Oxford, January 23, 2003

Make all checks payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Complete this form and return to:

Don Hicks, MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.



2003 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra

Audition Information

1-800-748-1651

Web site: www.mbc.org

auditions

Auditions dates for the 2003 MBASYC&O
(Open to 9th - 12th graders)

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2002	4 - 7 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Winona
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	William Carey College Hattiesburg
Thursday, Oct. 3, 2002	4 - 7 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Summit
Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Mississippi College, Clinton
Monday, Nov. 4, 2002	4 - 8 p.m.	First Baptist Church, Meridian
Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002	4 - 8 p.m.	Fairview BC, Columbus
Saturday, Nov. 9, 2002	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	North Oxford BC, Oxford

(NOTE: ALL instrumentalists will be expected to audition vocally.)

Instrumental auditions will include:

- A prepared piece
- Scales
- Sight reading
- Technique and tune

rehearsal camp

June 18-21, 2003, Dover, Delaware

tour

June 21-28, 2003

Mississippi, Maryland and Delaware Churches

Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C. public concerts

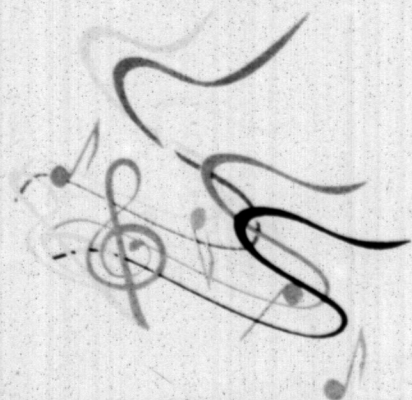
Auditioned choir and orchestra of 9th - 12th graders

Churches and associations are urged to establish scholarships to aid their selected youth with the estimated cost of \$750 - 900 per choir member. Exact cost will be available prior to the actual selection of 2003 members.

Be sure that your young people register with the Church Music Department ~~two weeks~~ before they plan to audition!!! We need to know how many students are coming so that we can provide judges and accompanists.

Sponsored by the Church Music Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

For more information: cwtaylor@mbcb.org, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Worship Service

August 25, FBC, Brandon, 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at
1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3267.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

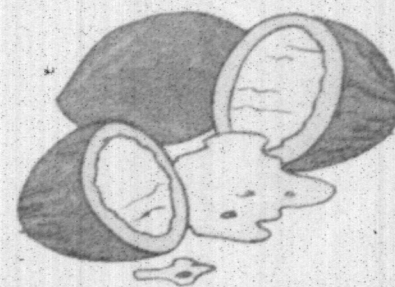
RHONDA REEVES
Preschool Editor, National WMU

featuring also

TODD CAPPS, *LifeWay specialist*
JAN MARLER, *LifeWay specialist*
and other leaders from around our state

COST: \$10 each (the 11th conferee is free when a group of 11 preregisters by November 1, 2002)

Preregistration is
requested by
November 1, 2002.



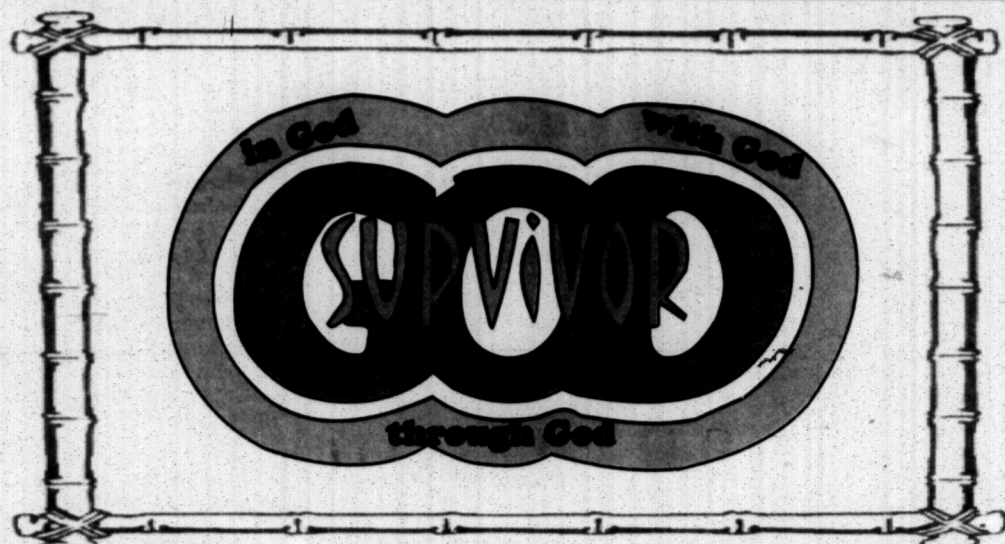
Preregistration Form

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP FESTIVAL

Name of Church _____
Group Leader's Name _____
Daytime Phone _____
Other Phone _____
Address _____

Number of Persons Attending _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Cost: \$10 each (remember, every 11th conferee in a group is free)
Please mail by November 1, 2002
Make all checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Complete this form and return to: Don Hicks, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. For more info, call Don Hicks 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.



PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP FESTIVAL 2 • 0 • 0 • 2

NOVEMBER 15-16 • MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR

ALL PRESCHOOL LEADERS AND **ALL** CHILDREN'S LEADERS

(Sunday School teachers; Discipleship Training teachers; Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassador mission leaders; Church Weekday administrators, teachers, and caregivers; Mother's Day Out teachers; and children's worship leaders)



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday

3:15 p.m. Registration Opens
4:30 p.m. Early Bird
Conferences
6:45 p.m. General Session
8:15-9:05 p.m. Conferences

Saturday

8:15 a.m. Conferences
9:15 a.m. General Session
10:15 a.m. Brunch
11 a.m. Conferences
12-12:50 p.m. Final Conferences

MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT "AGELESS!!!"

October 18-19, Camp Garaywa

6 pm, Friday - 2 pm, Saturday, Registration begins at 5 pm

Cost: \$33/person

Registration Form

Parent's Name _____ Daughter's Name/Age _____
Church _____ Association _____
Parent's Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parent's Phone _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____
Number Attending _____ X \$33 = _____ (Total Enclosed)
No refunds after deadline, however, substitutions may be made. Make checks payable to WMU and send to Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205



For more information contact:
Mississippi Baptist WMU at
1-800-748-1651 or
601-968-3800, ext. 322

Pray this day for...

August 23 - September 5, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"The Antioch church entered daily into prayer. God moves in answer to united prayer for those who obey him."

Dr. Robertson McQuilkin

For: (1) Growing Churches - Lee Association Training, Central Hills Retreat, Kosciusko, 23rd-24th (ChMin); (2) Please pray for Chairman Zlatko Lagumdija of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Eastern Europe).

For: (1) Area Preschool/Children's Choir Clinic, FBC, Madison, FBC, Tupelo (CM); (2) Medical clinics have opened doors in rural Haiti and have been successful in setting the climate for chronological Bible storying groups. Pray that government approval for establishing these clinics will be simplified.

For: (1) School Prayerwalking & Teacher Appreciation Day (WMU Emphasis); (2) The Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in June. Give thanks to God for the many students who have been trained at the seminary. Pray for God's continued blessings on the seminary.

For: (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally, Easthaven BC, Brookhaven (D&FM); (2) Some students on campus of the International Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa have been invited to teach religion in a local high school every Wednesday. Pray that many high school students will come to know Christ.

For: (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally, FBC, Clinton, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. (D&FM); (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m.; (3) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building, 1 p.m.

San Martin de las Escobas is a typical small, middle-class town in the province of Santa Fe. Pray for the walls of resistance to be broken down as a church-planting team combining IMB missionaries and Argentines attempts to share the gospel and find a home in which to start a Bible study.

For: (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally; North Oxford BC, Oxford, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. (D&FM); (2) Pray for various Criollo churches information in rural areas of Chaco Province in northern Argentina. Pray that new leaders can be found and trained to lead these churches.

Pray for Christian workers who are field testing a new means of evangelizing the estimated 85 million illiterate people in China. China has more illiterate people than any country other than India. Even though 90% of the illiterate live in rural locations, there are an estimated 600,000 illiterate people in Beijing.

Pastor C., home missionary in Zimbabwe, working with his own Shangaan people, has started four churches in four years. He and his church are working with their community to build an orphanage for the orphans left by the thousands of AIDS-related deaths. Pray for this work as they complete these buildings.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for State Missions (Margaret Lackey State Missions, WMU/MM Emphasis); (2) Discipleship Training Launch Day (D&FM Emphasis); (3) Andrew Chan is an Asian church planter for the California Southern Baptist Convention. Pray for a new Chinese mission church in Alameda, Ca.

The Lord's strategy for reaching Israel Jews with the gospel message is prayer that He will send forth laborers into His field. Pray that the Lord will raise up many dedicated intercessors who will pray fervently on behalf of Israeli Jews and for laborers for the field.

A couple on the Nicodemus Team in Colombia has shared with many pastors in prayer meetings throughout the city. There is a Christian presence in the city, but much of what is being taught in evangelical churches is emotionalism. Pray that pastors and their congregations will have a hunger to study the truth of God's Word.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 4th - 6th; (2) Pray for the number of sewing centers that have been established to sow seeds of hope. Ask for these to remain safe and operational and for the love of Christ to be seen and proclaimed.

For: (1) AMC/MBCB Prayer Retreat, Garaywa, Clinton, (MS); (2) Tim Bender is a pastoral missionary with the deaf and pastor of Louisville, Ky., Baptist Deaf Church. Pray for Lindy, Tim's wife, who leads the songs and a deaf ladies' fellowship. She is in constant pain due to a back injury in 1984. Pray that she will be healed.



Gifted to
Serve

NURSES ON MISSION

September 21-22, 2002
Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.

Registration begins at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21
The last session concludes at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22

PROGRAM LEADERS:

Eddie & Marilyn Graves, Chile for 18 years
Miss Chocolate, Gwen Williams,
Singer/Story Teller, New Orleans, La.
Paula Smith, MBCB Language/Literacy
Missionary
Becky Brown, Song Taylor, Word Weaver,
Full Time Music Evangelist

COST OPTIONS:

A. Cabins (bring linens) \$31
B. Guest House (linens included) \$37
C. Per Meal (no overnight stay) \$ 5

BNF REGISTRATION FORM

2002 BNF FALL RETREAT -- CAMP GARAYWA -- SEPT. 21-22, 2002

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE (WORK) _____ (HOME) _____

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2002

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ person(s) Cost Option (check one) A. _____ B. _____ C. _____

Make checks payable to MBCB and mail to WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205



Please take a moment to send a
card to encourage the children of
our missionaries!

4-90
MR. MICAH S. MCCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret
Agriculture

4-90
MISS ANN MARIE PEVEY
Parents: Frank, Jr., & Jerry Anne
Strategy Associate

5-86
MISS JESSICA L. BAKER
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

6-94
MR. ADAM S. CROCKER
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism

7-97
MISS ARIANNA L. HATHCOCK
Parents: Kenneth & Kimberly
Student Evangelism

8-97
MISS CATHERINE A. HODGINS
Parents: Raymond & Cynthia
Sports Evangelism

9-98
MR. MADISON H. CROCKER
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism

14-83
MISS VICTORIA L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Student Evangelism

27-83
MISS HANNAH M. GRAY
Parents: Tony & Karen
Church Planting

28-88
MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK
Parents: Rickey & Lori
Administrative Associate

29-85
MR. TRAVIS RACEY
Parents: Michael & Annette
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HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Parkway Church, Natchez, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Nov. 9 and 10. Past ministers will be speaking at the event. For additional information, call the church office at (601) 442-7434.

First Church, Jackson, will present Grief Gathering, a safe place to explore your grief from a biblical perspective, at the Christian Life Center Auditorium. The times are 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 22 and 29; Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26; and Oct. 3 and 10. For additional information, call Donna Lewis at (601) 949-1907.

Kosciusko First Church's Women's Ministry will sponsor The Beautiful Feet Conference on Sept. 14, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., featuring Shirley Bruffey and Tina Hudson. Bruffey has worked in women's ministries for the past 25 years. She has implemented women's programs for Prison Fellowship, a Chuck Colson outreach program, and developed a ministry called Women Ministering to Women. Hudson has taught numerous Beth Moore Bible studies and led several women's conferences. For a registration form or more information, call the church office at (662) 289-5575 or Inez Dickerson at (662) 967-2980.

The conference, Time Out for Women, at **First Church, Holly Springs,** had an attendance of approximately 300 ladies. Steering Committee (pictured) is Jane Callicutt, Sandra Hendrix, Carol Taylor, and Rose Fitch.



Callicutt, Hendrix, Taylor, and Fitch

Baptist Men's group of **Flowood Church, Flowood,** recently worked with the First Church of E a s t Carondelet, Ill. The men of Flowood Church reserves this time each year to go on their annual mission trip. Pictured (from left, front row)

are Eddie Cook; Ricky Gray, pastor; and Chad Stuart; (back row) Bobby Moore; Q. E. Hinton; Myron Sistrunk; Carlos Langford; Jerry Turner; Bill Dunigan; and Allen Stuart.

A Marriage and Parenting Conference will be held at **Holly Church, Corinth,** Sept. 21 from 7-9 p.m. Jim Alford, director of NE MS Family Ministries of the Baptist Children's Village, will lead the conference. There is no cost for the conference. Tony Morrow is pastor. Call (662) 286-3474 for more information and to make reservations.

Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, held Musicians' Day on July 7 during the morning worship service. The church musicians were honored for their dedication and contribution. Guest music



Mission Participants of Flowood Church, Flowood

(from left, first row) are Tori Carpenter, Ashley Fortenberry, Sarah Watts, Amanda Vasilion; (second row) Tommie Sue Bourne, Brenda Stringer, Patsy Speights; (third row) Bass, Cissy Beard, and Phil Duncan, pastor. Not pictured is Paula Dyess.



Musicians of Cedar Grove Church, Columbia

Trinity Church, Philadelphia, will have a dedication service 11 a.m. on Aug. 25. This is a dedication of the new education building and renovation of the fellowship hall, kitchen, senior adult's ladies classroom, and nursery 1. Nursery 2 is a new facility. There will be a covered dish lunch at noon in the fellowship hall and a time of singing and praise at 1:30 p.m.

HOMEcomings

Sylvarena, Wesson: Sept. 8; 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall; Scott Palmer, Sand Springs, Okla., former pastor, guest speaker; Graham Smith, Clinton, music; Stuart Givens, pastor.

Bunker Hill, Columbia: Sept. 1; 9:45 a.m.-noon; covered dish meal in fellowship hall; Douglas Laird, interim pastor.

Longview (Pontotoc): 119th anniversary; Sept. 21-22; Saturday, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m.; Johnny Sykes, pastor.

Linwood, Union: Aug. 25; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; concert performed by choir, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; meal following morning worship; Wayne Crenshaw, guest speaker; Jeff Mann, pastor.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 25; worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed with lunch; this Sunday is also Senior Citizen Recognition Day.

New Prospect (Lincoln): Sept. 8; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; Brad Moak, Bogue Chitto, guest speaker; others on program include Tom Moak, Bogue Chitto; Willie Welch, pastor.

New Hope, Tupelo: Aug. 25; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m. covered dish lunch; David Poe, former pastor, guest speaker; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

Visit the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on the web at:
www.mbcvb.org

BGCT to appoint fed chaplains

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The Armed Forces Chaplaincy Board of the federal Department of Defense (DOD) has approved the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) as a "recognized endorsing agency" for military chaplains. As a result, BGCT is poised to begin endorsing chaplains for the first time.

A BGCT spokesman said 31 people already have completed the necessary paperwork in order to be considered for endorsement by the BGCT when its Chaplaincy Endorsement Board meets in August or September. The BGCT will accept chaplains already endorsed by a "sister Baptist body" and not require them to go through a new application process.

Since other federal agencies and non-government entities typically follow DOD's lead, others are expected to recognize BGCT as an endorsing agency. Three federal agencies utilize ordained chaplains: DOD, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the Veterans Administration. Many other institutions have the same ordination requirement.

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STAFF CHANGES

Macedonia Church, Petal, has called **Jerry Doggett** as pastor effective Aug. 15. Doggett served as pastor at Macedonia from 1986-1998. His previous place of service was Poplar Springs, Mendenhall.

James H. Garner has been called as pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman, effective Aug. 4. He previously served at New Sardis Church at Mount Olive. Garner is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Center Terrace Church, Canton, has called **Jerry Mixon** as interim pastor, effective Sept. 1. Mixon, stewardship director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

Ebenezer Church, Liberty, has called **Charles Kirkfield** as pastor effective on July 21. He is a resident of Gillsburg.



Kirkfield

Lester M. Jeffers former missions director for Leflore Association, has accepted the call to Rome Church, Rome, as pastor effective Aug. 7.

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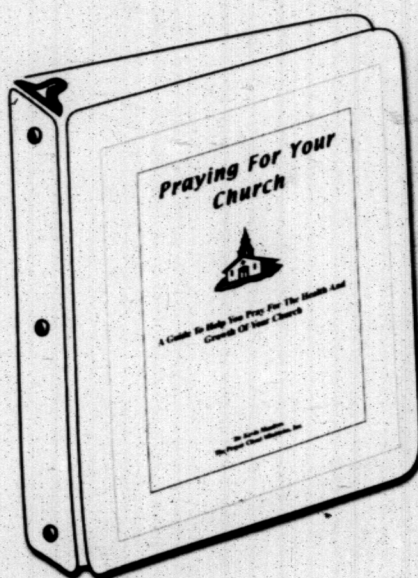
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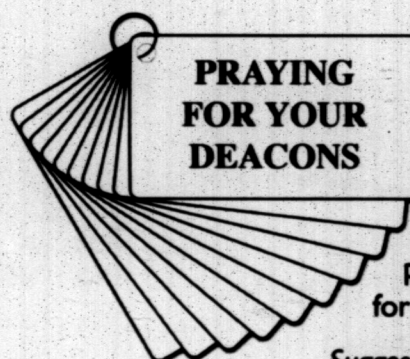
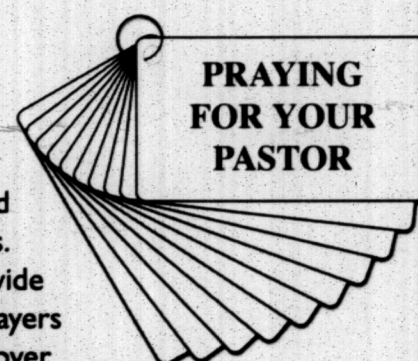
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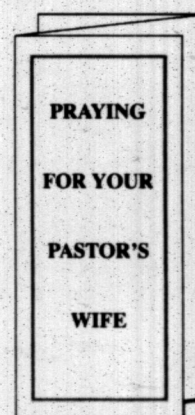
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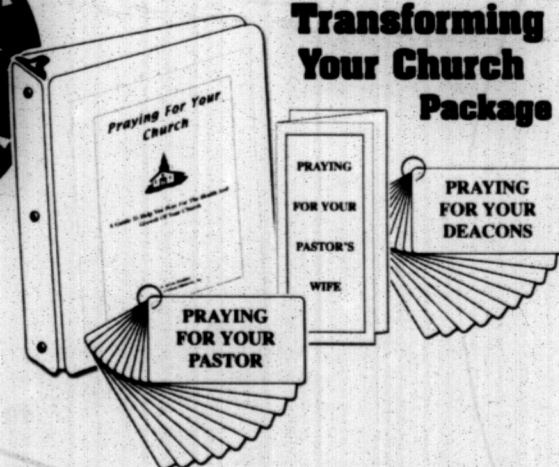
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COLLEGE NEWS

Mississippi College (MC) alumni office and athletic department will have an evening of fun on Aug. 31, 5 p.m., at the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Activities will include Media Day-Meet the Choctaw football players and a fish or chicken dinner. At 6:30 p.m., meet the senior players; Coach Johnny Mills; Mike Jones, athletic director; and Lee Royce, president of MC. Door prizes will be given away. There will be a scrimmage game with the football team at Robinson-Hale Stadium at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call (601) 925-3208 or E-mail alumni@mc.edu to make reservations.

The Andersons of Ocean Springs is an exhibit of works by Walter Anderson, his brother James McConnell "Mac" Anderson, Walter's children Leif Anderson and Mary Anderson Pickard, and Walter's grandson Christopher Inglis Stebly. Works in this exhibit have been collected by Sarah



Mississippi College Choctaws

Gillespie, and will be on display at William Carey College (WCC) through Sept. 27. The exhibit opens Aug. 29 with a reception from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery. This exhibit can be viewed during the regular gallery hours, 1-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. except for school holidays. Call (601) 318-6192 for additional information and to schedule special appointments or group tours. The Lucile Parker Gallery is located in Thomas Hall on the WCC Hattiesburg Campus.



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JUST FOR THE RECORD

A team of six from the **North Central Association** recently returned from a VBS mission trip to Baptist Fellowship, Randolph, Vermont, where Jerry Smith, a native Mississippian, serves as pastor. There was an enrollment of 84 for the week of July 21-25. Larry W. Yarber, pastor at Cowart Church, Charleston, led in a revival Sunday through Wednesday, where many decisions were made. Wayne and Joyce Gorman, Leflore Church; Charles and Helen Davis; and Larry and Reba Yarber, Cowart Church, made up the team.

Prentiss Church, Prentiss, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sept. 28 and 29. There will be an open house/fellowship time for visiting, reminiscing, and viewing displays of photographs and news articles of the past pertaining to the church on Saturday from 3-6 p.m. Sunday worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. with recognition by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Randall Rich, pastor, will bring the morning message. Following lunch, former pastors, Robert Sheffield and David Michel, former staff members and those who were

include worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; time of reminiscing and song service, 1 p.m.; and 175th anniversary party, 2:30 p.m. Steve Walker will be in charge of the music. Roger Lee is pastor.

A note burning service was held at **Friendship Church, McComb**, on Aug. 11 for the

debt retirement of the church bus. Pictured (from left) are LaVerne Summerlin, pastor; Julia Lee White, treasurer; A l t o n A t w o o d, chairman of deacons; Brenda Williams, church clerk and trustee; Jack Jackson, trustee; L. D. White, trustee; and Ray Taylor, bus committee chairman.



Note Burning at Friendship Church, McComb

Acteens of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently presented their year end program, Stepping Out on Faith. Pictured (from left, row 1) are Gloria Flamenco, and Corrie Vitalis; (row 2) Alison Wing, Emily McGee, Amy Simmons, Aja Wing, and Jordan Simmons; (row 3) Maggie Long, Amber Morgan, Ellie Childers, and Lauren Munn. Leaders are Robin Childers and Little Long.



GAs and Acteens of Stanton Church, Natchez

G A s
a n d
A c t e e n s
o f
S t a n t o n
C h u r c h,

Natchez, sang and performed a skit learned at Camp Garaywa on July 21. Pictured (from left) are Courtney Britt, GA; Jessica Porter, Acteen; Hannah Southerland, Acteen; Kelsey Albritton, Acteen; Charley Kae McCall, GA; and Kristy Britt, GA.

Strong River Church, Pinola, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Aug. 25. Activities will



Acteens of West Heights Church, Pontotoc



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

GOING BACKWARDS

Editor:

Each week I look forward to reading your Editor's Notebook in The Baptist Record.

I was especially interested in your August 8 comments in An anniversary report card, about gaming in Mississippi. As I watched my daughter recently fill large paper bags with school supplies for my seven-year twin granddaughters to take to school, I thought about how backward we seem to be going rather than forward in our school system.

It seems that 10 years ago the politicians lauded gaming for educational purposes more than for any other reason, but when will education ever benefit? In the meantime, what must we do about all the negative aspects and misery caused by gambling?

Annie L. Mitchell
Corinth

ANNIVERSARIES SET

Editor:

Monticello Church in Monticello will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on October 20. The pastor, staff, and members would like to invite all former members, pastors, and staff members to attend. The program will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a catered luncheon. Special activities for children will be provided.

Former members, pastors, and staff members are asked to contact the church office at (601) 587-2114 and provide current addresses and phone numbers so that information materials and personal invitations can be sent.

Jon Daniels, pastor
Monticello Church,
Monticello

Editor:

Belden Church, Lee Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on September 28-29. Former members and friends are invited to attend the celebration. Please contact Belden Church, P.O. Box 92, Belden, MS 38826, for a schedule of events. Contact person is Denise Asters at (662) 842-6341. E-mail: clayton@ebicom.net.

Betty Scott
Belden

OVERSTATED CASE

Editor:

In a recent edition of the Record you carried a brief news item by M.W. Smith, a Christian singer-song writer in which he challenges churches to "pass the baton" of worship music to younger generations or risk dying — his words.

It may surprise Mr. Smith to learn that this old retired

pastor agrees with some of the points he makes and, as one who has also served Baptist churches many years in the area of music and youth, I can feel his heartbeat.

However, I do believe he has overstated his case if he is saying that the only choice available to us is either to stubbornly refuse any innovation in worship music or to just simply throw away our church hymnals. I believe the solution is in neither of the extremes but somewhere in the middle.

Surely we must reach out to our youth to show them love and understanding, and churches who refuse to do that, I feel, have lost their credibility to even speak on the subject. In other words, we can and must, I believe, find common ground.

Some churches are moving toward "blended" worship services where modern praise and worship choruses are interwoven with the old traditional hymns. My home church is beginning to do that and I believe it has been received well by the congregation in general.

Having said all of the above, I am concerned about the trend I have observed in some churches to replace the old hymns of doctrine and faith that have served and sustained us for a century and a half with something less than that.

Please forgive me for using a metaphor that may be overused, but I believe it applies here. In our attempt to be modern, let us not throw the baby out with the bath water!

Arlis Nichols
Enterprise

COMPLICATED ISSUE

Editor:

I appreciate your publication and read it often. On page five of your August 8 issue, a brief statement by a Christian singer-composer, Michael W. Smith included "I think a lot of people who are not embracing some of the songs that are being sung are just afraid of change, and I think it's unhealthy."

The issue of contemporary music and style in modern Christian worship is a complicated one-equaling in diversity of thought as Jim Futral's Directions on the same page. In this article, Futral artfully discussed the issue of dress code in the church. It was well thought out and balanced in view.

Similarly we need to handle worship music. As a father of six children, I have seen them, in spite of early training in music theory and classical instruments, gravitate to contemporary music with a strong rhythm and back beat. Why? Probably, because it's popular, their friends like it, and it's excit-

ing and energetic. Spiritual factors and influences have little impact on their music choices presently.

Michael W. Smith is a strong Christian witness in our society. Yet we need to direct our children in wise worship standards-not cater to youthful foolishness of choice.

Davis A. Timm
Natchez

CAPABLE FEMALES

Editor:

The Bible is inerrant, but there are customs in the Bible that no longer apply. We do not follow dietary laws. We do not stone adulterers. We do not provide a "city of refuge" for those who commit manslaughter.

Because letters lately have referred to I Timothy 2:12, I have searched that book. We are told to pray for our leaders and give thanks for them. What about Bill Clinton? Pastors are to be blameless, to always keep their family under control. When the Scripture says the pastor is to be the husband of one wife, does that mean that an unmarried man cannot preach? What about the command that no widow under sixty years is to be allowed into the membership? Or that we are to "drink a little wine for our stomach's sake?"

We follow what feeds our prejudices and ignore the rest. Or, could it be that some customs do change over the years? There are many capable female educational directors, music directors, college professors, and, yes, women pastors. We are treading on dangerous ground when we sit in judgment on what God calls a person to do, male or female.

I love the Southern Baptist Convention, but forcing people to agree with pointless questions that only stir up controversy was never our mission. It just may be Satan's way of keeping our eyes off what should be our main focus — bringing a lost world to Christ.

Carol Rackley
Pontotoc

NOTIFY MBHC

Editor:

We at the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission (MBHC) office are encouraged by the number of churches celebrating significant anniversaries this year: 100, 125, 150, 175, and 200. A preponderant majority of them are scheduling special services that utilize the resources of our valuable library holdings.

On occasion, we are unsuccessful in communicating with some of the churches because of staff changes or other issues. May I take this opportunity to appeal to all

churches with anniversaries in 2002 to alert us so we may prepare — and present, if so desired — an appropriate framed anniversary certificate and letter of commendation.

If we are notified several weeks prior to the anniversary celebration, we can assist with historical information about the church and can schedule a member of the commission, or an associational missions director (AMD), to present the certificate personally.

In that regard I wish to express our gratitude to the AMDs and staff at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board that are unstinted in their assistance with the presentations.

Edward L. McMillan
MBHC Executive Secretary
Clinton

Editor's note: MBHC can be contacted at P.O. Box 4024, Clinton, MS 39058. telephone: (601) 925-3434.

HOMEcoming PLANNED

Editor:

Homecoming at White Oak Church, Magee, will be held on November 3. We ask your help for names, addresses, etc., of former members or anyone interested in this event. Our address is 9746 Highway 18, Magee, MS 39111.

Cleta Overby
Magee

Group seeks prayer for NYC needs

NEW YORK (BP) — As the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks approaches, leaders of New Hope New York are asking pastors to consider leading their congregations in a special time of prayer for the needs that remain in the city.

New Hope New York is the name of the North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities effort in New York, which is developing strategies for prayer, church planting, church strengthening, pastoral leadership development, and collegiate ministry efforts that will take place primarily in 2004 and 2005.

"We would like churches to consider giving out the PrayNewYork.com prayer guide in their services," said Jack Smith, partnerships and networks director for New Hope New York.

The prayer guide can be downloaded on the www.praynewyork.com website. Other resources for Sept. 11 remembrance services are available at www.namb.net/911.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Relationships: Who Needs Whom?

Genesis 4:1-16

By Ruth V. Gamble

This month we have studied origins: six days of "firsts" in creation, creation of human beings, first temptation, and judgement. Now we look at the establishment of the first family. As God breathed life into Adam and formed Eve, he established new relationships extending beyond the Adam-Creator one. With Adam and Eve he not only provided companionship, but his marvelous plan for the process of procreation, and the origin of family. Now there would be husband-wife, parent-child, sibling, and extended family relationships.

Genesis 4:1-2 states: "Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, 'With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.'" Some

versions say "Adam knew Eve," using an Old Testament idiom indicating intimate, personal, and experiential knowledge, not only intellectual. Verse two informs us that Cain worked the soil and Abel kept flocks.

In time each son built an altar for sacrifice. Cain brought "fruit of the ground" and Abel brought a first born animal from his flock. Who instructed them in worship procedure? Adam? God himself? We do not know what details were given them, only that God looked favorably on Abel's offering, but with disfavor on Cain's. Why? Different opinions exist. Some believe it concerned a blood offering. Leviticus 17:11 says "... for it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life." Hebrews 9:22 echoes this idea. This view considers blood sacri-



Gamble

fice to anticipate later sacrificial laws for atonement, and also Christ's sacrifice. God's later instructions for specific worship experiences included "blood" offerings, but also those of grains, oil, even salt.

Look closely at Genesis 4:5 which says, "... but on Cain and his offering" -- and "on Abel and his offering," seeming to indicate that God's favor, or disfavor, was based on the attitude of the offerer as well as the offering itself. Was it a question of obedience? We do not know. It seems likely that the attitude of the individual was extremely important. Cain was "very angry" at God.

Anger so easily erupted into aggressive hostility. Cain asked Abel to go into the field with him, and there he murdered his brother. God then asked Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at

your door and desires to have you, but you must master it... Where is your brother Abel?" There was only a defensive, sarcastic answer. "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?" Ironically, the words "brother's keeper" contained the idea of exercising great care over a brother, and over all human relationships. Then God asked, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground." How God patiently and lovingly attempted to draw Cain back to himself, explaining, and exhorting.

Finally, Genesis 4:11 reveals God's punishment: "You are under a curse and driven from the ground. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth." Cain's anguished response, "My punishment is more than I can bear ... whoever finds me will kill me," indicates remorse, not repentance. God's severe punishment was tempered by his amazing grace, offering protection for Cain by giving him an identify-

ing mark so that no one would kill him without suffering God's vengeance seven times over. Verse 16 must be one of the saddest verses in scripture: "So Cain went out from the Lord's presence ..." How tragic it is to turn away from a loving, forgiving God!

The secular worldview often views relationships to be used for personal benefit. "What's in it for me?" It is a survival of the fittest code of ethics. Good relationships are offered on altars of convenience, self-advancement, or material worth.

The biblical worldview, however, stresses a good and caring relationship with God and others. Indeed, a right relationship with God is the foundation for all others. This is a self-giving, loving code of ethics, each considering others more important than themselves. "Relationships: Who needs whom?" We need God and each other. Let's build right relationships!

Gamble is a member of Slayden Church, Slayden.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Repentance

2 Samuel 24:1-25

By Bart Walker

Time, events, experience, situations, success, failure, and other common events of life can change us over time. Some of these changes are for the better, and as in the case of some changes in the life of David and Israel toward the end of David's reign, some may make us worse.

Our lesson begins with the sin of David as he is incited by the anger of the Lord.

Notice that Joab, the faithful general of David's army, saw the error from the start and warned David. Joab sensed the danger and took note of the shift in trust that is developing here.

It is not until the troops are counted that the sin of trusting in the numbers of Israel and Judah begins to burden David.

Some work of God's Holy Spirit convicts David's heart and leads him to a time of Confession. The nuances in the Hebrew language at this point are noteworthy. In the NASB the 10th verse reads "Now David's heart troubled him." The KJV more vividly reports "And David's heart smote him." God didn't simply make David convicted; he smote him. This word is usually used of a fatal or near fatal crushing blow, often as judgment of God. God's gracious love brought a crushing blow to the heart of David as he brought the awareness of David's sin to light in his heart and mind.

David's confession bears his guilty heart before the Lord, asking for removal of sin and admit-



Walker

ting the foolishness of his iniquity. His immediate desire is for mercy from the one he has offended.

As God made David aware of the consequences of his sin, the Lord offers a choice to David as to the punishment of the sin. He is given three choices. Of the three, David chose the one in which he demonstrated a return of his genuine trust in the Lord. His line of response in 24:14 reveals a heart of trust that has been awakened by the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the distress of his heart. David said, "I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for his mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man." David here reveals the trust he should have had from the start. Should Israel rely on the hand of man or the hand of God to protect?

As the consequence of the pestilence arrives we are allowed

to see the serious nature of the results of sin as well as the Mercy of God. The pestilence falls upon the very men who had been trusted in to protect the nation. The greatest threat to Israel and Judah was not the enemy called man, but the person of the Lord himself who judges righteously and justly. He alone can protect or destroy Israel. He alone can be the one in whom they place their trust. He alone holds the power of life and death!

David calls out to God in the midst of the pestilence and asks for the mercy of God on the people, calling them "sheep," and asking for the judgment to fall on him and his household. God then instructs David to build an altar showing repentance and faith. David chooses the place of mercy to build his altar, the place where the hand of God was restrained by gracious love for his people. David's insistence to pay Araunah for his land is exemplary in that David was not going to offer God some "freebie" that was given to him.

David wanted the earnestness of his repentance to be displayed in every aspect of his worship. When David offered up the offering for sin and peace, God's restraint was confirmed as he withdrew his hand of judgment from Israel.

Our lessons for this week are many-fold! David learned whom to trust for protection, whom to seek for mercy, and to whom worship is due, even in immense distress. As we reflect on the nature of the sin of Israel we are also called to examine our view of community. The community was in error and the whole community suffered! What about the sin in the midst of our assemblies when we gather for worship? How is our "community" being affected today by the negligence of those in the community in trusting God for protection, mercy and in worship?

Walker is pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

'Mamita' saving souls in Honduran prisons

FRANCISCO MORAZAN, Honduras (BP) — An exposed bulb dangles from the ceiling by a black wire and throws its harsh light around the cramped cinder-block room.

Tattooed bodies crowd the space or stare in past the heavy steel door. This cell's location is deep within the bowels of a

Honduran prison. All of the young men present are gang members, and most are killers or rapists, or both.

At the center of this sea of inked flesh sits Amy Johnson, a perfectly postured, fair-complected redhead. Her soft voice forces the prisoners to lean in to hear her.

Her sincere smile melts their calloused hearts, and her deep-penetrating brown eyes reach beyond their hardened exteriors to their souls.

They call her Mamita — trans-

lated, "Little Mom."

"She makes us feel like we are not forgotten," says Danny Boy, a prisoner and the leader of one gang. (Most gang members use nicknames.) "People treat us like animals, but not her. She listens to us, and we respect her a lot."

Johnson, 47, an International Mission Board missionary, always teaches gang members Bible stories in the six prisons she visits throughout the week, but it's not the Scripture she teaches that is the basis for her ministry.

It's the Scripture she lives. She introduces gang members to Jesus and helps them get to know him better.

"It's not telling a person they have value; it's showing them," she says. "You can't tell a person Jesus loves them but never do anything for them. You have to show them what the love of Christ looks like."

SUNDAY: WOMEN'S PRISON

Johnson passes through the security gate and starts up the covered walkway. At first sighting, young women ages 16-19 mob her. All are gang members.

Johnson compliments their hair, asks how their week has been and asks about their families. She then gently places a small teddy bear in her basket. She'll deliver it tomorrow to one girl's boyfriend who is serving time in another prison.

The small band pulls Johnson toward the meeting room like young children excitedly pulling their mother to see a picture they've just colored.

Everyone wants to touch her. Johnson sets up her flannel board and removes her big Bible from her small backpack.

Chairs are gathered. Today's lesson is from Acts: Ananias and Sapphira. The lesson on deception and theft hits close to home.

MONDAY: NATIONAL PRISON

It is incredible artwork, really, considering the canvas is skin. One tattooed body after another streams out of the cellblock as Johnson strolls from daylight, past a huge portrait of the Virgin Mary standing vigilant at the entrance, and into the dimly lit maze of cinderblock rooms that serve as cells.

Facial tattoos are common, and Johnson long ago overcame the shock of seeing the large, blocked "666" that stretches from one temple to the other of some of the inmates.

Nearly all of these guys are in their late teens or early 20s. Most boldly admit they doubt they'll ever see age 30.

"A lot of what I do is just listen," Johnson says. "They just want someone to take an interest in them."

TUESDAY: JUVENILE PRISON

The 15-year-old boy with bandaged arms can't wait to see Johnson. He rushes to meet her and, at first opportunity, pulls her to the side.

He whispers something; Johnson smiles and pulls him close in a hug. He accepted Christ as his Savior two nights ago.

His journey to the cross wasn't easy. The bandages are from when a rival gang captured him and tried to burn his gang's tattoos from his arms.

He's lucky to be alive. He's even luckier to be in jail. Jail provided the chance for him to hear about Jesus.

"He started coming to the Bible stories and told me he wanted to get out of the gang," Johnson recounts. "He changed the way he dressed and asked me for a Bible. I'm just so excited about his decision."

Johnson finishes the story, Noah's Ark, and a few guys gather around her. The new believer has brought several friends to Johnson. She gives them each a short



WITNESS TO THE LOST — Missionary Amy Johnson (right) visits with a tattooed-branded gangster in Honduras who faces daily threat from rival gangs who often kill on sight. He is also a target for frustrated police eager to exterminate street gangs and an increasing number of armed civilian vigilantes. (BP photo)

lesson plan, and they work through the blanks.

One boy asks for a Bible. "I will give you a Bible when you learn to read," Johnson says, and turns to the others in the group. "It is your job to help him learn to read so he can read the Bible for himself."

They promise to teach him, and tell her they've formed a new gang -- a Bible study gang. The boy with the bandages is the leader.

WEDNESDAY: COMAYAGUA PRISON

Stepping through the cage into the prison yard is like buying a ticket to a three-ring circus. Salsa music blares from an assortment of speakers as a man shouts to be heard above the noise. He's selling lottery tickets.

A man sitting in a hammock tosses crude comments in the direction of some female guests. Others are begging spare change to possibly buy a cigarette at one of the many concession stands lining the narrow, outdoor passages.

Johnson draws stares as she greets the two muscular young men who are waiting for her. Both were members of a gang. One's nickname was Satan. That was before. Now he smiles constantly. The difference is Jesus in his heart. He no longer uses his nickname.

He is not the only one changed. Of the four groups Johnson will teach in this prison, three groups are former gang members.

"The reason we are out is because Amy shared Jesus with us," he says. "What she teaches us is that there is hope."

The week continues, and prisons are revisited. Johnson takes one day to plan for the coming week, and prayer is the foundation on which every day is constructed.

Even in the most hostile of spiritual environments, gang members not only hear that Jesus loves them, but also see him every week in the form of a slender redhead with gentle eyes and a warm smile.



FOCUSED MINDS — Inmates listen attentively to Amy Johnson's stories of redemption. Using a flannel board for the semiliterate, the missionary turns darkened cellblocks into classrooms six days a week for teaching principles of faith. (BP photo)



TAKING ITS TOLL — "This work is not something to take lightly, and I always knew it wouldn't be easy; the Lord made that clear," missionary Amy Johnson says during morning prayers, "but I never regret that I came." (BP photo)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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VFK AUR HNMK OVCK

LFAN TVCF, BUP VMA

AUNL BMNAU? VFK BUP

CO AUP TNLFAFVETR

SVHHRF?

ERFROCO SNLM: OCZ

Clue: F=N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Five:Sixteen

Mississippi Baptists plant seeds of love

By Tim Nicholas
Staff Writer

Final in a series

SINCE 1877
ST 29, 2002
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A group of 11 Mississippi Baptists spent two weeks this summer working with Palestinians in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip as part of "Project Future and Hope." The project was designed by Southern Baptist missionaries to alleviate suffering among

Palestinians and to "demonstrate God's love in a tangible way," according to Paul Lawrence, Southern Baptist representative in the Gaza Strip.

The Mississippians led in three English camps — one in Brej, one in Meir Balah, and the one in Gaza City, population about 700,000 (out of 1.3 million in the five mile by 25 mile Gaza Strip).

The Gaza Strip runs alongside the Mediterranean Sea, separated from Israel proper by razor wire and thousands of Israeli Army troops.

The Gaza City

English camp took place at a Christian library started by Southern Baptist representatives more than 30 years ago. The library has 9,000 members and a Christian staff.

The ostensible purpose of the camps was to teach English. Though constrained from preaching Jesus Christ, the camp leaders were there specifically to show the love of Christ.

"We could not talk as openly about it as we would have liked," said Kay Cassibry, director of Mississippi Woman's missionary Union, "but that did not stop us from showing it."

Team members working with volunteers from Youth With a Mission, a Christian discipleship training organization, played games, taught "the hokey pokey," and explained major U.S.

celebrations.

Those celebrations included Valentine's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Christmas explanations, of course, included the reason for the season — Jesus Christ.

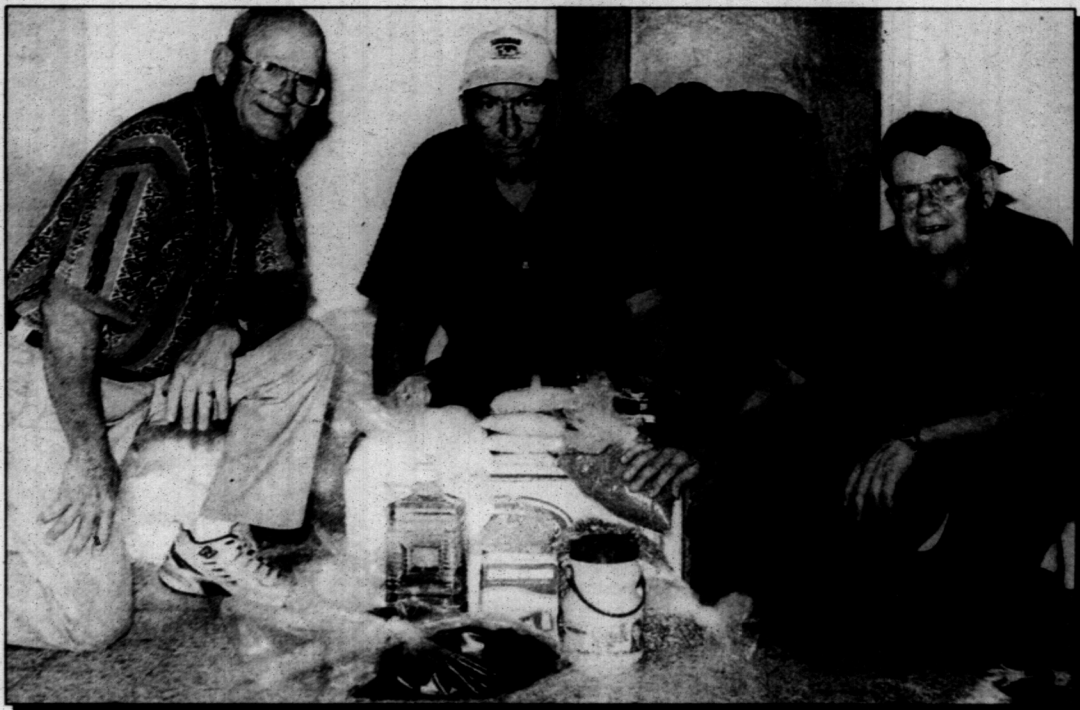
"To see the children laughing, playing, giving hugs and kisses, singing happy songs, and practicing their broken English brought a joy and a peace to me," said

Cassibry. "Maybe for just a brief time they could forget what was going on around them

and enjoy the love and safe environment we had to give."

One of the translators spent time talking with Jerry Bishop, pastor of Lauderdale Church, Lauderdale, about theological issues. "You can start planting some gospel seeds that God will germinate," said Bishop, "and one day somebody will go and bring in the harvest."

All Mississippi team members delivered food into homes



FOOD FOR LIFE — Mississippi volunteers (from left) Paul Cassibry of Clinton, a retired military chaplain and pastor; William Wright, pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson; and Bill McCreary, missions director for Benton and Tippah counties, display one of the 70-pound food packages they helped distribute to hundreds of Palestinian families through Southern Baptist world hunger funds. (BR Photo by Tim Nicholas)

in the West Bank or in Gaza. In the Gaza Strip, the food packages consisted of more than 70 lbs. of lentils, peas, white and brown beans, tea, rice, noodles, dry milk, lard, and oil. Lawrence said these packages could feed a family of 10 for about a week.

Most residents greeted the American visitors warmly but with an occasional remark such as, "If Americans loved Pales-

tinians, we'd have peace a long time ago." However, the Mississippi group had been warned to have tough skin. "God loves you and we are sad for what has happened," group members said in the homes through interpreters. "We wanted to show you our support."

The home visits were a positive experience for Paul Cassibry of Clinton. "I think it gave them an opportunity to have a positive image of Americans outside of political fields."

In the remote Gaza settlement of Zahar Deek — only 600 yards from the Israeli border — parent after parent, when asked what is their prayer, said, "For the safety of the children of the world."

Mothers and fathers said their children are constantly afraid. The kids hear tanks and guns nearby and try to hide.

Yet, when asked, many believe that they have no control over their destinies. As one Palestinian told Jerry Bishop, "It's Allah's will, and prayers won't do anything."

Jesus didn't believe that. Neither do a group of Southern Baptist representatives nor a group of Mississippi Baptists who planted seeds and await the harvest.



QUITE A SIGHT — Palestinian children stand in a doorway, closely watching Mississippi visitors to their village in the Gaza Strip. The American Agency for International Development estimates that more than one in five Palestinian children is malnourished. (BR Photo by Tim Nicholas)

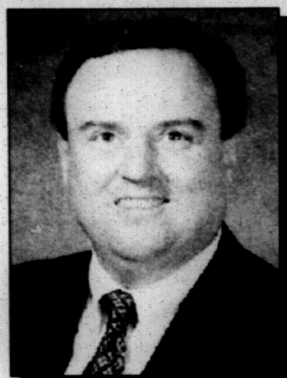
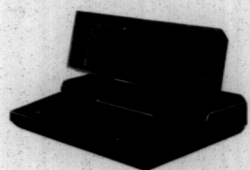


GOES THROUGH HERE — Jerry Bishop (left), pastor of First Church, Lauderdale, teaches a craft to a Palestinian child during an English camp led by Mississippians and other volunteers in Gaza City. (BR Photo by Tim Nicholas)



Special Insert in
center of this issue

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Ministry at home

Mississippi Baptists are a special people, and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering (MLSMO) is special — so special, in fact, that it is appropriate we set aside a few moments at this time of year to learn more about the offering and pray about how God would have each of us support it.

Is MLSMO just another offering? Quite the contrary. The breadth and scope of Kingdom work under the offering is staggering. Consider the offering's many elements:

- \$300,000 for Volunteer Missionary Assistance. Mississippi Baptists continue to volunteer in record numbers for short-term mission projects. Experts have long been saying that short-term volunteer mission projects are the wave of the future, and Mississippi Baptists are setting the trend in this area.

- \$300,000 each for Camp Garaywa and Clinton and Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko. The attendance figures are beginning to reach into the stratosphere at Camp Garaywa, Mississippi Baptists' Girls in Action campground, and Central Hills, Mississippi Baptists' Royal Ambassadors campground. The movement of the Lord in the lives of young people is palpable at these facilities.

- \$300,000 for church planting. In harmony with local established churches that want to sponsor new church plants, these funds help new churches get off the ground in strategic locations around the state where Mississippi Baptists need a presence.

- \$120,000 for associational mission projects. The old saw states, "All politics is local." Baptist county associations have localized state missions work and established some of the most forward-looking evangelism and outreach projects. These funds will provide financing and encouragement for those projects.



- \$50,000 for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force. These 150 Mississippi Baptist volunteers are specially trained to respond to disaster relief needs anywhere in the world. Through the present day, they have worked tirelessly at the sites of the 9-11 attacks and elsewhere to spread the Good News in a unique and powerful way.

- \$35,000 for criminal justice ministries. A national report released just this week indicates that the U.S. incarceration rate is at an all-time high. Mississippi certainly hasn't bucked that trend, so funding for these services to inmates and their families has never been more critical.

- \$30,000 for Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC). A ministry of the members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), Mississippi Baptists now boast numerous sites around the state where this hugely successful program seeks to lift women out of poverty and place their feet on the path to a spirit-filled and successful life.

- \$30,000 for pastor benevolence. "I was a part-time pastor in a church that needed full-time ministry support. Because of the support from the State Mission Offering, I was able to dedicate a little more time to the ministry of the church. Today, the church is growing and able to support me full-time," said Terry Partin, pastor of Riverside Chapel in Columbus. Enough said.

- \$15,000 for literacy efforts. The influx of immigrant workers and their families that we are presently encountering in Mississippi, combined with the lowest literacy rate in the nation, makes our state an ideal place to attract people to the Gospel through such courses as English as a Second Language, Adult Reading and Writing, and Tutoring Children and Youth.

- \$10,000 for language ethnic work. Mississippi Baptists worship each Sunday in at least seven different languages. These funds help address needs in ethnic Mississippi Baptist churches.

- \$10,000 for international college ministry. In addition to the burgeoning immigrant population in the state, many foreigners come to Mississippi for a college education and then return to their homelands. Through MLSMO, Mississippi Baptists ensure that they return to their homelands with Jesus in their hearts and on their lips.

In addition to the financial generosity of Mississippi Baptists that makes all these worthy projects possible, volunteers dedicate many thousands of personal hours and vacation time to help bring these projects to fruition. The Lord calls us not only to practice good financial stewardship but also good stewardship of our time and talent.

There is simply no better way to accomplish both than through state missions and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. Let's get busy!

GUEST OPINION:



An offering in her name

By Kay Cassibry, Exec. Director
Miss. Woman's Missionary Union

paid is a significant mile marker, her passion and vision for reaching the women in Mississippi was an even greater contribution. Her reputation as a committed prayer warrior began when she worked at Baptist Hospital, often asking patients and co-workers how she might pray for them and then leading in daily prayer services. Her literary skills enabled her to write two books: *Laborers Together*, describing Southern Baptist missions in China before 1921, and *Decade of WMU Service, 1913-1923*. Her gifts of administration and organization laid the groundwork in those early years, and set a high standard for others who have followed in her footsteps (Frances Traylor, Edwina Robinson, Marjean Patterson, and yours truly).

I often wonder if our former Executive Director-Treasurers would be pleased with the way the offering is being used today. Would they rejoice with all Mississippi Baptists that:

— The offering has grown from \$300 in 1903 to over \$1,000,000 in 2001.

— Over 2000 young girls attend Camp Garaywa and 1000 boys attend Central Hills Retreat, where they see the love of Christ lived out through the summer staff and experience missions through direct interaction with "real live missionaries." Who knows what mission field God may give them, as a result of their experiences at camp.

Just this year, 10 training conferences have been held to instruct leaders to teach ESL (English as a Second Language),

ARW (Adult Reading and Writing) and TCY (Teaching Children and Youth), as a part of our Literacy Ministry.

Our Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Team, made up of 150 men and women, served over 90 days actively responding to disasters in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Mississippi.

In the very beginning, Margaret Lackey's commitment to prayer was beyond a doubt the foundation for her task in Mississippi. May we embrace God's power given to us in Acts 1:8, as we embrace his task given in Matt. 28:19-20.

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of the family of Mississippi Baptists, who throughout our history have proven their passion and desire to reach a lost world for Christ. Today more than ever, the challenge is before us.

It is not the task of a chosen few, but the responsibility of all of us as God's servants to pray, to go, and to give.

Cassibry can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3318 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 318. E-mail: kcassibry@mbcb.org.

Centrifuge 'uniquely geared for life change'

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Visit LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center during a Centrifuge week and you might think you've taken a wrong turn somewhere.

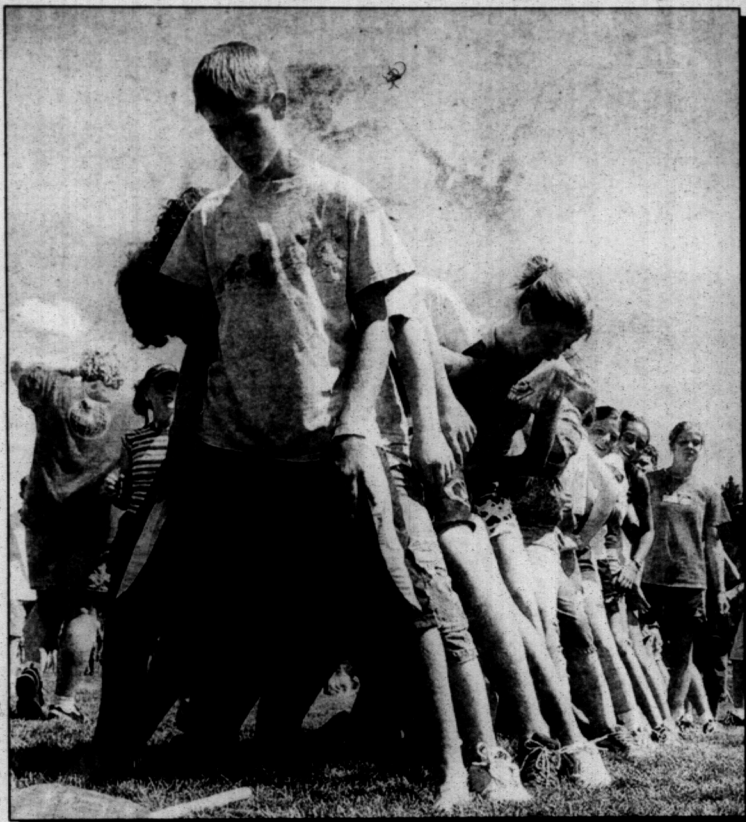
Although the conference center is nearly always bustling during the busy summer conference months, it takes on new life when Centrifuge participants set foot on the campus.

It's loud, and the hours are not only punctuated by the tolling of the church bells at Holcomb Auditorium, but the shouts, squeals, and sounds of Centrifuge recreation.

Sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Centrifuge is a Christian camp for teens in grades seven through 12.

The seven-day camp includes Bible study, church-group devotions, discipleship, recreation, and worship, all of which are designed to help students grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

This isn't your run-of-the-mill church camp, complete with songs by the campfire and crafts. No one could ever accuse Centrifuge camps of being boring. Worship at Centrifuge



TEAMING UP — Seventh and eighth-grade Bible study groups participate in a "Mega Relay" during Centrifuge Mega Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center. (BP photo by Mandy Crow)

leans more toward interactive than traditional, usually featuring a contemporary band complete with drums and a thumping bass line.

Centrifuge involves having fun, but its primary focus is on teaching students how to minister in the world, said Lance

Howerton, managing director of the student events department at LifeWay. That's why LifeWay's Centrifuge section takes such care in selecting staff members, he added.

"Centrifuge is unique in that we believe life changes happen best in the context of relationship," Howerton said. "We hire great staff — college and seminary students — who invest in teens unlike any camping program I know of. The one-on-one contact and the ratio of

staff to student is uniquely geared for life change."

While increasing a student's biblical knowledge is important, teaching them to model Christianity at camp, home, and school is just as important, said Todd Maupin, Centrifuge camp director at Glorieta.

The goal of Centrifuge staff is "to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in the way we act, the way we teach, the way we interact with students," Maupin said. "Showing a living lesson of Jesus Christ lived out makes a difference to these students."

The Centrifuge concept began in 1979 as an alternative camping experience for seventh-through 12th-graders. It was designed to mix teens and youth leaders from across the nation in fast-paced Bible study, recreation, worship, and soul-searching before separating them out to return to their own churches and homes with renewed spirits and strengthened relationships.

Centrifuge began at two

locations with 7,500 youth participants. In 2002, there are nine stationary camps, three traveling teams and five special teams serving more than 40,000 teens in 77 camp sessions throughout the summer months.

"It's a great experience to have so many Christian kids together," said Daina Sangkhabos, a youth leader from First Church in Las Vegas. "The way the program is set up, it's geared toward growing them as Christians and having the support around you."

Sangkhabos attended Centrifuge Mega Week camp. Regular Centrifuge camps handle about 500-600 people, said Jason Ellerbrook, a Centrifuge coordinator for LifeWay. Centrifuge Mega Weeks are larger events with attendance running between 800 and 1,200, he said.

Record

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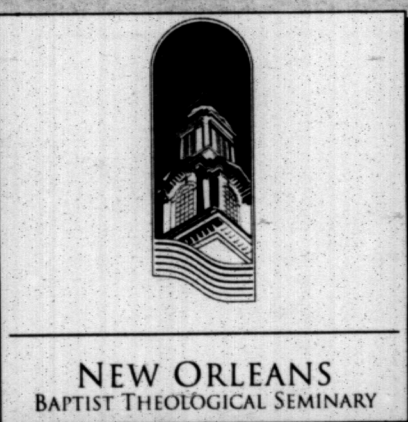
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New NOBTS logo in place

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) is beginning the 2002-03 academic year with a new visual identity that more accurately represents the institution's mission for the 21st century, announced NOBTS President Chuck Kelley. The touchstone of the identity is a new logo that graphically tells the story of the seminary's mission to fulfill the Great Commission and Great Commandments



through the local church and its ministries. At the heart of the logo is the highly visible spire of the Roland Q. Leavell Chapel, which serves as the focal point of the seminary's campus and as a reminder of the point of its training: healthy churches. A "window" surrounding the chapel spire represents the seminary's window of opportunity to change the world through Jesus Christ. The "five lines" supporting the chapel represent the seminary's five core values (doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, characteristic excellence, and servant leadership). When practiced in the local church, these values set the climate for effective church growth. Finally, the "wave" of the lines represents a river, symbolizing both the Mississippi River, New Orleans' geographical connection, and a spiritual river, the awe-inspiring movement of God. "To the untrained eye, the logo represents a beautiful icon of one of our most significant campus buildings," explained Shannon Baker, director of public relations. "To the person who understands its meaning, the logo represents who we are and what we feel God is calling us to do." First appearing on items presented during the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis, the logo was developed by the seminary's office of public relations. The final design was the result of months of collaboration among team members, graphic designers Jeff Audirsch and Doy Cave, office manager Joan Wetzal, and Baker.

Looking back

10 years ago

"I'll never think of Mississippians as rednecks again," says a grateful Baton Rouge resident as Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers feed him his first hot meal since Hurricane Andrew swamped Louisiana with torrential rains and strong winds. Andrew also caused record losses in Florida.

20 years ago

An initiative to establish mission work among three ethnic groups and the deaf in the Jackson metro area is being supported by Hinds-Madison and Rankin Associations, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

A trio of Mississippi Baptist associations — George, Warren, and New Choctaw — are the first in the state to report 100% participation in Cooperative Program giving for the year. A total of 1200 out of 1674 Baptist churches in the state are now giving to the Cooperative Program.

Garaywa to open doors for MBC

Lodging at Camp Garaywa in Clinton will be available October 28-30 during the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, according to camp manager Roddy Reed. The camp's overnight facilities will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis for lodging only.

Camp Garaywa will not be available for lodging on Sunday night, October 27.

For a list of rates and to make reservations, call Camp Garaywa at (601) 924-7034 by October 23. Payment can be made by cash or check made payable to Camp Garaywa. Credit cards are not accepted.

Camp Garaywa, the state Girls in Action campground, is operated by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

WMU consultant — 'We are under siege'

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) -- Fifty percent of all children killed by firearms are African Americans. The leading cause of death among African American males, age 18-34, is gunfire. Thirty percent of African American children live in poverty.

"We are under siege," said Debra Berry, a national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) ministry consultant. "It is an assault that we cannot surmount or overcome alone. We must be restored."

Berry, who works with African and adult audiences on behalf of the Southern Baptist auxiliary, led a class titled "Be Restored: God's Power for African American Women" during Black Church Leadership Week at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Based on the book by the same title, the course sought to show African American women the parallels between their lives and need for restoration and the life of the Old Testament character of Nehemiah.

"Restoration is the recovery of that which is lost," Berry said. "Just as Israel was told to restore their nation, we must restore our lives to be right with God. That restoration may be economic, physical, or spiritual. We have lost our focus and we have left our first love. We must recover that."

Berry traced the steps of restoration through three phases.

"Restoration is a ripple effect," she said. "If we are personally restored, then that restoration branches out to our family, then our community."

"Restoration must begin with you," Berry said. "You must return to God and seek his ways,

women get feelings of unworthiness, Berry continued.

"People will tell you that you aren't worthy," she said. "But it doesn't matter what they say as long as you listen to what God says. People thought Nehemiah wasn't

easily, Berry acknowledged; those seeking restoration must be serious about their commitment to God.

"Restoration only comes through the will of God," she said. "We must be the embodiment of a person who is desperate for God as we labor in prayer and fasting for our families, communities and churches. We must also be people of patience."

If feelings of restoration don't surface immediately, don't give up, Berry counseled.

"When we pray, God gives us one of three answers: yes, no or wait. We must be willing to wait if that is his answer," she said.

"We live in a godless nation, full of materialism and disrespect for God," Berry said. "We must stop trying to figure out how to keep up with the Joneses and start trying to figure out how to be like God."

Approximately 1,300 people attended Black Church Leadership Week. The conference was sponsored by five Southern Baptist Convention entities

— LifeWay Christian Resources, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Annuity Board and WMU. For more information about the conference, go to www.lifeway.com. To learn more about "Be Restored: God's Power for African American Women," visit www.wmu.com or www.lifewaystores.com.



RESTORATION NEEDED -- Debra Berry (left), national Woman's Missionary Union consultant for African and adult audiences, encouraged women during Black Church Leadership Week to seek restoration for their personal lives and their communities during a time of cultural siege. (BP photo by Brandy Campbell)

obey his commandments, and respect his authority."

Women feel a void in their lives today which they try to fill with men or possessions, Berry noted. "Women have become so obsessed with stuff and relationships that we've allowed these things to block the way of a right relationship with God."

At times, African American

worthy, but see how the Lord blessed his ministry?"

Several participants in Berry's conference expressed concern over the state of the African American family. "The gates around our families are under siege," Berry responded. "We must teach our families the Bible at home, and instill in them a deep respect for the church."

Restoration will not come

Vacation Bible School theme for 2003 announced

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The secret is out! The theme for 2003 Vacation Bible School (VBS) is *The Great Kingdom Caper — Cracking the Character Code*.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention publishes the materials. VBSers can get ready for a challenging adventure filled with mystery, suspense and intrigue. They will spend a week exploring the vibrant streets of London and the colorful British Isles.

Children attending VBS will discover all this and more as they (the sleuths) and adults (the inspectors) join together to unravel the mystery of *The Great Kingdom Caper — Cracking the Character Code*.

"Sleuths and inspectors will be on special assignment to discover how compassion and kindness, humility and gentleness, patience and endurance, forgiveness and love are vital to the Christian life," said Rob Sanders, VBS editor-in-chief in LifeWay's childhood ministry

publishing.

"As sleuths and inspectors work through real-life cases, they will uncover the fact that to live with Christian character requires having Jesus as Savior and Lord," Sanders said. "The caper will be an exciting escapade that will motivate people of all ages to know Christ, accept him as Savior and Lord, and live with Christian character in God's kingdom family."

In a "Missions Market," sleuths will uncover the identities of missionaries who are on special assignment every day.

Music also will play a major role in the adventure as songs in the "Music Castle" and "Worship Rally Square" reinforce each day's Bible study and life application.

There is no mystery to uncover when it comes to VBS resources. The VBS resources provide:

- Strong outreach and evangelistic emphases that make VBS a flagship event for every church.
- Common Scripture passages and Bible study topics

for all ages with age-suitable distinctions.

- A fun and meaningful theme that transforms the event into excitement for everyone.

- Rotation and self-contained scheduling options to meet a variety of needs.

- Upbeat worship rallies featuring kid-friendly Christian music, drama, and video.

- The opportunity for lead-

ers to serve based on their giftedness and interests.

- Unique, easy-to-use resources that make the adventure fun for leaders as well as learners.

For more information, go to www.lifeway.com/yourvbs. Noting that the website is being updated regularly, Sanders said, "Check back often to see what information on VBS for 2003 has been added."



Manners not so old-fashioned to author

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A polite home is a peaceful home. Imagine children saying "please" and "thank you" instead of "huh" and "what" — a home where "Heeeeeeey, phone!" is never heard.

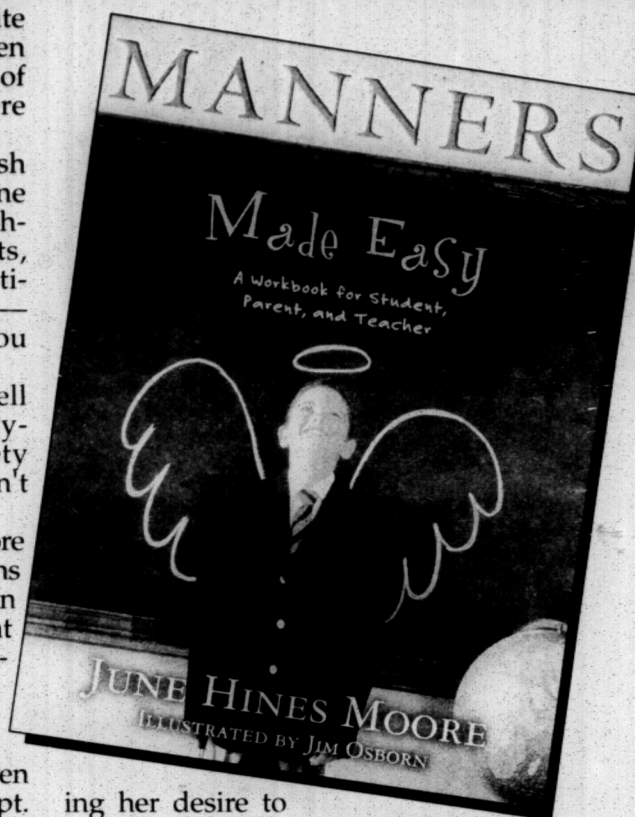
A tad old-fashioned in this rush-rush modern world perhaps, but not to June Hines Moore, who makes a living teaching what used to be taught by parents, schools and church. It's known as etiquette or by its familiar biblical name — the Golden Rule: treating others as you would want to be treated.

"I learned [manners] in school as well as at home. It was practiced everywhere," Moore said, "but our society doesn't teach it and the children don't have the first clue."

Perhaps the world has become a more rude and inconsiderate place. Americans believe that manners are worse now than they were 25 years ago, Moore said. But that can be changed if people remind themselves to be considerate of others.

"A lot of parents didn't have a chance to learn it themselves," Moore said of etiquette. "Adults have to require that children ... speak in a modest tone and not interrupt. As adults we have the responsibility to teach them."

Moore's latest book, "Manners Made Easy," is a workbook on everyday manners for children, parents and teachers, reflect-



ing her desire to teach these principles to adults so that they might train the next generation.

The book is full of charming illustrations demonstrating manners like which fork you grab, uh, pick up for salad.

Broadman & Holman Publishers, the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, published the book.

Moore also quotes biblical passages that apply to each rule, because consideration for others through manners is, at its heart, Christlike.

"Every rule of etiquette has a reason," Moore said. "The reason I teach the rules is so people feel more confident about their own actions with other people."

"If everybody knows what's required, your focus can be on the conversation and on the people you're with."

Moore's biggest challenge is teaching children how to eat at the table and common everyday courtesies like not interrupting when others are speaking.

She suggests that parents first value manners, then commit to demonstrating them to their children. Parents also can point out when someone is rude to them and how it feels.

They should praise children when they are well-mannered, instead of criticizing when they're not, she said — and parents should give children the opportunity to apply what they've learned by taking them to a nice restaurant, for instance.

"Manners were God's idea first.... We put rules in our head, and manners in our heart," she pointed out.

Harvey set for NOBTS V.P. post

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Charles Harvey Jr., director of the doctor of ministry program and associate professor of Christian education at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), has been promoted to vice president of development. Harvey succeeds Jerry Pounds, who has taken a position as president of Truett-McConnell College in Georgia.



Harvey

A specialist in collegiate ministry, Harvey, 51, has served a variety of positions at the seminary since 1997. Most recently as associate director of the professional doctoral program, Harvey has been the director of theological education in a joint partnership between the Florida Baptist Convention, NOBTS and The Baptist College of Florida for the last three years. Previously, he served as director of continuing education and conference planning at the seminary.

A native of Shreveport, La., Harvey earned both the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from NOBTS, in 1977 and 1987, and the bachelor of arts degree from Northeast Louisiana University in 1974.

Two Dollars!

Like many of you, I can remember when two dollars was a lot of money! As a youngster, before I was able to go to work, my dad gave me an allowance each week if I did my chores and pretty much kept a good attitude through the week. How much? Two bits! One quarter! If I had been given two dollars, I probably would have just been overwhelmed and not known what to do with all that money.

As I thought about the State Mission Offering, I thought about those two dollars and what they could do. The reason two dollars came to my mind is because it is the approximate amount that it would take to reach our 1.5 million dollar goal, if every Mississippi Baptist participated. With almost 750,000 Mississippi Baptists impacting state missions with two dollars, the goal would be attainable. I know that many of you will give more than two dollars, and then there may be some that are not even aware of the need or the effectiveness of the State Mission Offering to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Still, I thought about what would happen if everybody got involved with a prayerful gift of two dollars.

Two dollars doesn't sound like much and in our economy it does not go very far. It will buy just over a gallon of gas, but may not be enough to purchase a gallon of milk. Unless bread is on sale, it probably won't buy a loaf. It certainly is not enough to purchase gourmet items such as Spam or a five-gallon bucket of chitlins. At some places it will buy a



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

burger meal, and I've actually seen some folks selling puppies on the side of the road for two dollars. For two dollars you cannot buy a CD, or get into a movie, or buy a bag of popcorn. Two dollars is not enough to fix a flat tire, or let your car sit in a parking lot all day long, or even get you in a high school football game.

Let's suppose that all of us take two dollars and prayerfully ask the Lord to bless it in a State Mission Offering. What in the world would that two dollars accomplish? I can tell you it would be amazing. Right up front two things would be at work that would make a difference:

- The power of a unified effort on the part of God's people. When we get together to accomplish a task, it is amazing what God does through us. From a scriptural standpoint and from a practical standpoint, we can always do a lot more together than we can do apart.

- The other more significant thing that is at work is the Lord himself comes to multiply what we place in his hands. That is certainly true when it comes to the State Mission Offering and what we are able to accomplish.

Just think of what these accumulated dollars can do to make a difference:

- Part of the State Mission Offering goes to Disaster Relief. You and I have watched and thanked God for the blessing of the Disaster Relief workers being present when a tornado has cut through the landscape, or when hurricanes have washed upon our shores. Last year part of your giving enabled Mississippi Baptists to respond to the tragedy of September 11th.

Our Disaster Relief teams are prepared and poised to respond to needs in our state, but on occasion they are called on to be a part of disasters beyond our borders and beyond description. Within hours of the four-plane attack against our country, a team of Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief workers was preparing to leave and be on the grounds of the Pentagon. They were not the last team from Mississippi that would go, for others would follow to both Washington and New York. You made it possible for us to have a strong and unusual response during very unusual days in our country.

- These cumulative dollars do more than just provide help in times of trouble; they enable us to be a part of planting churches all across our state. The landscape in Mississippi is changing weekly. There are high rate population growth

areas where we must be involved in helping new churches be birthed.

- When we join together in giving to our State Mission Offering, it impacts thousands of men and women who are incarcerated in our state. Recently I read a statistic that just stopped me in my tracks and made my eyes pop out. It said that 85% of all people in prisons today across America would be out on the streets within five years. If that statistic is true, or even if it is close to accurate, I would much rather that people come out of prison having had an encounter with Jesus Christ, who was and still is the only hope.

- One feature of our State Mission Offering that can transform each one of you into more than just a pray-er and giver of money and can enable you to be a great co-missionary, is found in our Missionary Assistance Program. More and more Mississippi Baptists are on the go, desiring to be a part of hands-on, experiential missions. Whether across the state or in connection with our mission partners, this offering can help you accomplish what God has called you to do. There are new churches and stronger churches and there are new believers and stronger believers, because Mississippi Baptists have made their way to Maryland, Delaware, Ukraine, Honduras, Boston, Toronto, Calgary, Jamaica, Jerusalem, Gaza, and scores of other points around the globe.

God is at work calling, leading, using, and blessing the love and testimony of Mississippi Baptists. Thank you for caring, for giving, and for going — the Lord is honored and the world is blessed!

FamilyNet announces lineup

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Five new series for children and youth and four new series and two new documentaries for the whole family will be added to FamilyNet Television's lineup starting in October.

FamilyNet is a broadcast subsidiary of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Two of the series, "Mary Lou's Flip Flop Shop" and "TruthQuest: California," both original programming from FamilyNet, already have drawn considerable media attention.

Also being added to the lineup is a half-hour weekday news program. The documentaries will explore the Christian influences in early America and the Christian testimonies of Major League baseball players.

FamilyNet is a 24-hour television network airing more than 50 hours of original, values-based programs weekly. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, the network broadcasts to a potential 34 million TV households and is available on cable systems and broadcast stations nationwide. For more information, visit the FamilyNet website at www.FamilyNetTV.com or call (800)832-6638.

COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

David Jack West, Pearl, son of Ted and Martha West of Florence, received the doctor of ministry degree in leadership from New Orleans Seminary.

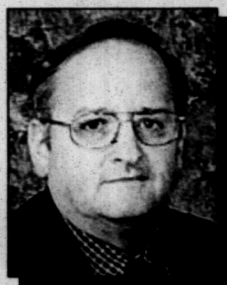
Others receiving degrees were Connie B. Arnold, Meadville, certificate in church music; Ray Edward Blakeney, Crystal Springs, certificate in church music; Charles Ralph Bonner, Newton, associate in divinity degree in pastoral ministries; Myles Rico Brown, Jackson, master of divinity; Timothy Clark Daniels, Cleveland, master of divinity degree with specialization in worship leadership degree; Amanda Beth Dowdy, Carthage, master of arts in Christian education degree in childhood education; Michael Loren Ensign, Pelahatchie, master of divinity degree; Brian Hamilton Furr, Picayune, master of theology degree; Donald Wayne Gentry, Meridian, associate in Christian Ministry degree; Tony Marcus, Oxford, master of divinity degree; Jason Stephen Knippers, minister to students and activities of Macedonia Church, Brookhaven; James William Knott, Pearl, master of divinity degree with a specialization in Christian education; and Robert Charles Moore, Independence, master of divinity degree with a specialization in psychology and counseling.

John R. Pratt, pastor of Holmesville Church, McComb, bachelor of general studies degree in pastoral ministries; Philip O'Neal Raybon, Wade, bachelor of arts degree in pastoral ministries; Casey Eugene Rowe, Pearl, certificate in Biblical teaching; Mark Stafford, minister of music of Siloam Church, West Point, certificate in church music; Rhonda R. Terrell, minister of music/pianist of New Hope Church, Meadville; Adam Lee Wallace, student minister of Gulfport Heights Church, Gulfport.

Todd Nathaniel Davis of Moss Point received the bachelor of arts in Biblical studies degree on May 25 at Southeastern College of Wake Forest, N. C.

Sixteen students with ties to Mississippi graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, May 17. Degrees were conferred on 375 students at the seminary's 203rd commencement ceremony. That number included 342 master's degrees from the school's 16 master's degree programs, 52 diploma studies degrees and seminary extension program certificates, and 29 doctoral degrees.

Receiving degrees were Allen, Richard L., Gulfport, doctor of ministry; Anderson, Jody K., Randolph, master of divinity with Biblical languages; Aoa, Michael K., Corinth, master of divinity; Cartwright, Cory M., Corinth, master of arts in Christian education; Cunningham, Donna J., Columbus, master of divinity with Biblical languages; Duckworth, Lynda N., Laurel, master of arts in Christian education; Duran, Jason W., Columbus, master of divinity; Fairly, John E., Madison, master of divinity with Biblical languages; Gilmore, Michael S., Brandon, master of divinity; Johnson, Kimberly J., Richton, master of arts in Christian education; May, Stephen M., Magee, master of arts in Christian education; Parnell, Jarred, S., Greenwood, master of arts in church and community ministry; Runnels, Lana L., Jayess, masters in lay ministry; Sipes, Chad A., Belzoni, master of divinity with Biblical languages; Stogner, Tommy S., Tylertown, master of divinity with Biblical languages; and Summerhill, James D., Madison, master of divinity with Biblical languages.



West

Michael S., Brandon, master of divinity; Johnson, Kimberly J., Richton, master of arts in Christian education; May, Stephen M., Magee, master of arts in Christian education; Parnell, Jarred, S., Greenwood, master of arts in church and community ministry; Runnels, Lana L., Jayess, masters in lay ministry; Sipes, Chad A., Belzoni, master of divinity with Biblical languages; Stogner, Tommy S., Tylertown, master of divinity with Biblical languages; and Summerhill, James D., Madison, master of divinity with Biblical languages.

REVIVAL DATES

Wanilla, Monticello: Aug. 30-Sept. 1; Fri-Sat., 7 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Michael Jones, minister of students, Highland, Meridian, speaker; Matt Snowden, pastor.

North Calvary, Philadelphia: Sept. 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jimmy Russell, Pontotoc, evangelist; Karen Cumberland, music; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; worship leaders are Pat Bufkin, mission director, Copiah Association, Sunday; Brad Moak, New Providence Church, Jefferson County, Monday; Johnny Beavers, Pilgrim Rest, Crystal Springs, Tuesday; and Webb Armstrong, First, Bude, Wednesday.

Macedonia, Louisville: Sept. 8-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; special activities are Mon., children's night; Tues., youth night; and Wed., family night (meal at 6 p.m.); guest preaching and music by Campers on Missions.

Mt. Zion, Independence: Sept. 22-25; 7 p.m.; Gary Watkins, Collierville, Tenn., evangelist; Kenny Adams, Tylertown, music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

STAFF CHANGES



Morton

Tommy Morton has been called to West Heights Church, Pontotoc, as minister of activities and children. He formerly served as athletic director at Itawamba Community College.



Steele

Lynn Ray Steele has been called to Road Church, Petal, as pastor effective June 16. Steele is a graduate of Pearl River Community College, University of Southern Mississippi, and has recently completed requirements at

Slidell Baptist Seminary towards his bachelor of theology degree. Steele previously served at Ora Church, Collins.

Calvary Church of Oak Grove, Hattiesburg, has called David Jacks as minister of youth and education effective Sept. 3. Jacks is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at First Church, Lumberton.

HOMECOMINGS

West Marks, Marks: Sept. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues. 7 p.m.; dinner in fellowship hall following morning service. Mike Smithey, pastor.

Cairo, Ecu: Sept. 8; 10:30 a.m.; lunch; singing, featuring The Landmarks, 1:30 p.m.; Charles Stubblefield, speaker.

It can be said that a few passionate people can change the world. If you think about it, they are the only ones who ever have. Is it your cry and desire to be one of those few? Are you serious about selling out to Christ to the point that your whole being will be consumed by your love for Him? Are you willing to be totally abandoned to God?

"Oh that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence... your coming would make the nations tremble."

Isaiah 64: 1,2



The passion cry of the prophet Isaiah was that God would come down and move in mighty power as a testimony to the world, like when He descended on Mount Sinai to reveal the Ten Commandments. The whole mountain shook like a "violent earthquake" and the people trembled in fear.

For more information on See You at the Pole call 1-817-HIS-PLAN or visit the web at www.syatp.com

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September 18, 2002